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What do Liverpool Daisy and Monsignor Quixote have in common? Alex Hamilton on 1984's fast-sellers

MS-TIMED
Feminism of the brand produced in the sixties and packaged in the seventies has failed... Guardian Women

SEE HOW THEY RUN
Terry Coleman rides to hounds

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Education (Guardian) reports on how Hong Kong's horseracing gives drama students a better stage than the Olivier to play on

ME FIRST
Assert yourself and see the world, Guardian Women looks at training schemes for self-fulfilment

Wednesday

RIGHT ON?
Ten years ago, children were promised a new Charter of Rights Society. Tomorrow, investigators how far the adults have kept their word

RED EMMA
When the Red Queen met the Hobo King the sparks flew... Guardian Women looks at the life of Emma Goldman

NEWS IN BRIEF

Surrogate mother

KIM COTTON became Britain's first surrogate mother last night when she gave birth to 7lb 13oz girl at 7.26pm in Victoria Maternity Hospital, Barnet, London.

A-test message

THE Australian prime minister sent a message to Britain demanding: "What the hell is going on?" after a nuclear test off Western Australia. Page 2.

Disaster clue

WATER leaking into a storage tank is believed to have caused the Bhopal gas disaster in India. Page 4.

Pound stronger

STERLING recovered ground against the dollar yesterday but higher interest rates are not ruled out. Page 18.

Church defiance

A VANDALISED London church, consecrated by a bishop last night, is to be left open. Page 5.

The weather

COLD with sunny periods. Details, back page.

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Joseph ready to force appraisal scheme

By Andrew Morrice, Education Staff

Sir Keith Joseph confirmed yesterday that he is ready to impose a national assessment scheme to monitor teachers' performance if unions and employers could not introduce their own system.

The scheme would cover 800,000 teachers, including the higher education level, with a total annual wage bill of £7 billion. "The teacher force is a very high national investment," the Education Secretary said.

Individual teachers could benefit from applying standards of management which were common elsewhere.

Sir Keith denied that he was obsessed with weeding out the small number of irremediably incompetent teachers. He would like unions and employers to come up with their own scheme before he sought the power to introduce systematic appraisal.

The unions said that Sir Keith's plan suggested that teachers were not already monitored. Most of them opposed the idea of legislation.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that Sir Keith was trying to blame

teachers for damage inflicted by government policy. He accused him of banking for a return to a "payment by results" system.

Schools were giving good value despite spending cuts, and the unwillingness of the Government to provide support and resources.

Sir Keith told the North of England Education Conference in Chester that his target area would cover 600,000 teachers. It extended to further education — where lecturers could expect more redeployment, tighter management and moves to end extravagance and inefficiency — and to higher education where standards must be improved.

"The total annual pay bill for those teachers is around £7,000 million. The teacher force is a very large national investment," he said.

"Measures to improve the quality of the management of that investment, and the professionalism of the teachers themselves, are without question matters of the highest national importance."

The Education Secretary has faced strong union opposition since early November, when he announced that he was prepared to use legislation to impose tighter management and changes were torpedoed by the National Union of Teachers before Christmas.

Yesterday, Sir Keith said: "It seems to me that a national framework for an appraisal performance system... is likely to be helpful to both employers and employees."

"If it proves difficult to achieve that national framework as part of an agreement between employers and teachers, I believe it would be worth exploring an alternative route using the vehicle of regulations promulgated by the holder of my office."

The key might be a simple



Sir Keith Joseph faces up to speeches agreeable and disagreeable at the North of England Education Conference yesterday

requirement that employers should systematically appraise the performance in post of all their teachers. That requirement might be accompanied by guidance on how the appraisal might be carried out.

"I do not claim that these steps are necessarily the best or only way forward. I do claim that they are wholly reasonable possibilities."

There was no question of his seeking the power in the next session of Parliament. It might be later this year or in 1986.

Sir Keith linked his proposals to the distribution of teachers in schools and to improving the in-service training system. Spending on training

had increased but more radical measures might be needed. He was studying a report calling for a more systematic approach and a grant to finance the work.

"An appraisal system would have to be complemented by better arrangements for the individual teacher's career development including induction, in-service training, guidance on possible teaching posts and promotion," he said.

His policies to raise standards of achievement by schoolchildren would make significant more work for teachers who, he acknowledged, were

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Addis claims airlift is 'international conspiracy'

Ethiopia may lock door on 7,000 Jews

By Michael Simmons in London and Alex Scott in Brussels

The future of the Israeli rescue operation to airlift 25,000 Falasha Jews out of Ethiopia seemed to be in doubt last night, with at least 7,000 refugees still trapped in the country.

Ethiopia called on Sudan and other countries involved to stop "this illegal and clandestine operation which is a gross interference in the internal affairs of Ethiopia."

A statement by its foreign ministry condemned a "conspiracy between the Sudanese Government and foreign powers in the illegal trafficking of Ethiopians from Sudanese territory to Israel and other countries."

However, the tone of this statement goes against the view of the country's Foreign Minister, Mr Goshu Wolde, as expressed to a group of visiting Americans last November. The Americans were assured that the Falashas could leave voluntarily to join their families.

It emerged yesterday that a small Belgian charter company, working closely with the United Nations Children's Fund, was chiefly responsible for the airlift.

Belgian government officials confirmed that the company, Trans European Airways, had made about 35 flights so far. Up to 12,000 Ethiopian refugees have been transported since last November from the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, to Brussels, Basel, and Rome, before taking them on to Israel, according to sources in the airline.

Secrecy has been paramount. The European destinations were given to satisfy the Sudanese Government that the flights would not end in Europe. The Belgian Minister of Communications, Mr Herman de Croo, said that the Prime Minister had been informed of the operation, and precautions had been taken to maintain its secrecy.

Another month is now said

to be needed to lift another 7,000 refugees. The aircraft are described as "flying hospitals" and a number of children have apparently died of malnutrition on the flights.

The exact cost of the airlift, believed to be about £300 million, remains a mystery. A high level airline official said last night that he believed money was being channelled through Unicef, which has been active in famine relief operations in Ethiopia and the Sudan. He was not aware of any other source of finance for the operation.

"ISRAEL has again proved its determination to overcome all barriers in order to fulfil the Zionist dream," said one newspaper. But the Falashas still have to overcome the barrier of settling into a modern and alien society.

Report, page 4; Leader comment, page 12

The operation, Unicef, through its offices in Geneva, insisted that it was not involved "financially" in the airlift.

Last night, it was being suggested that much of the necessary money was raised by Jewish sympathisers, including the US and Britain, and that they would also be contributing to an \$85 million resettlement fund launched for the Falashas in Israel yesterday.

It is known that the Falashas as a group were not particularly sympathetic to the Ethiopian revolution. On the other hand, although they were mainly living in the politically confused north of Ethiopia, they did not conspicuously align themselves with any left or right-wing opposition factions.

It is also known that the Falashas have been leaving Ethiopia at a steady trickle for several years, some heading for Israel, but many settling in Sudan, the refugee camps, and the trickle became a flow as the political conflict between Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, the

Ethiopian leader, and the rebels intensified and especially with the onset of the drought and famine.

Almost certainly, the Ethiopian authorities have been turning a blind eye to this exodus, because politically and geographically the Falashas were beyond its reach, and because of the relationship between Addis Ababa and the Israelis.

This relationship, possibly using Egyptian intermediaries, has been built in part on Israel's willingness to supply at least spares and possibly more for the US military equipment used by the Ethiopian army.

Representatives of the Mengistu Government are believed to have discussed such supplies, as well as the sensitive issue of the Falashas, at a meeting last June, and Col Mengistu had at least two meetings with the Egyptian Foreign Minister at the OAU summit in Addis Ababa last August.

Falashas have been eligible to enter Israel under its Law of Return since 1972, but the aircraft have been directed to the less used corners of the airports, and the incoming Falasha passengers quietly dispersed to unspecified destinations.

The extent to which other governments were involved remains uncertain. The pro-American President Ja'far Numeiri of the Sudan will have sought a blessing for the exercise from Washington.

Sudan's own position, however, is complicated as it does not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Ethiopians have in the past offered support to Sudanese rebels opposed to President Numeiri.

Egypt, which is close to President Numeiri, denied involvement although it seems probable that the rights would have had to pass through Egyptian air space.

The British Foreign Office denied involvement in the operation, and European governments apparently offered no objection to the use of the airports as staging posts.

Russians admit missile went astray

From Donald Fields in Helsinki and David Fairhall in London

The Soviet Union offered an unprecedented apology last night to Norway and Finland for inadvertently firing a "flying target" into their air space.

The Soviet ambassadors in Oslo and Helsinki, Mr Dmitri Polyanski and Mr Vladimir Sobolev, called on their respective host foreign ministers, Mr Sverre Stray and Mr Paavo Vayrynen, and delivered messages of regret.

According to the Soviet version, the projectile deviated from its course when it was fired from a vessel during shooting practice in the Baltic Sea on December 28. It headed westwards and may have violated Norwegian and Finnish territory.

The somewhat longer note to Norway described the incident as unintentional and stressed that the projectile was not armed and did not carry poisonous matter.

Meanwhile, as the search for debris continues, Norwegian military sources have confirmed that the errant cruise missile is believed to have been an elderly SS-N-3, known by the Nato codename Shaddock. It was probably launched from an Echo II-class submarine.

The claim that it was being used as a target drone seems to be confirmed by Finnish military sources quoted in Oslo, who say the Russians guided the missile up to a height of between 5,000 and 6,000 metres, from its target altitude of 4,000 metres, and then detonated it over Lake Inari by radio. However, this could be deliberate misinformation to discourage the television crews and journalists who are now scouring the remote corner of Lapland for signs of the wreckage.

The rapid and unexpected Soviet response to the

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Tour firm signals new fares war

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

A NEW round of price-cutting among Britain's big tour operators was signalled yesterday when Global cut about £1 million off this summer's holiday prices.

Global, the seventh largest tour firm, is cutting up to £70 off the price of 50,000 foreign holidays in a move which will further intensify the battle for customers among the leading operators.

It will also increase fears about the stability of package tour firms during the traditional peak pre-Christmas booking season.

The Civil Aviation Authority recently told package tour operators to lift their safety bonds by £40 million to a record £200 million, because of increasing worries about company crashes. Last year saw a record 20 tour company failures, and the CAA warned last month that this year might be no better.

Forward bookings for the summer are thought to be running at least 30 per cent less than a year ago, partly because people are seeking alternatives like motorhome holidays, and partly because of the miners' strike.

Holiday firms tried to ease the pressure on profit margins by raising prices for this summer's holidays, but Horizon and Global, the leading 10 operators, have resorted to price-cutting to win customers.

Mr Roger Corkhill, managing director of Global, said: "There is a battle on. There are too many operators chasing not enough business. This is a highly competitive industry."

However, the trading environment is being made more

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Labour plan to block babies bill

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

Labour MPs are planning to block a private member's bill to be introduced by Mr Enoch Powell, the Ulster Unionist MP for South Down, seeking to prevent experiments on embryos produced by in vitro fertilisation.

The Labour MPs led by the shadow health minister, Mr Frank Dobson, are opposing the bill in the House of Commons (Protection) Bill in the hope of preventing it obtaining a second reading, due in the Commons on February 15, and proceeding to the committee stage.

A meeting to co-ordinate opposition has been fixed for January 15 in the Commons. It will be attended by the president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Professor M. C. MacNaughton.

The Opposition and the Government will allow a free vote on the bill but it is expected that both front benches will urge MPs to wait until the Government brings forward its own legislation on test tube baby techniques, after the Warnock Report recommendations.

However, the vote on the second reading will be close. The bill is strongly supported by the pro-life group of MPs and there is widespread concern about some of the developments in test tube technology. A large number of MPs signed a Commons motion opposing any attempt to use embryos as implants in animals.

The Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, faces a delicate decision in framing his response to the bill but Mr Dobson said he would be against it because it went too far. "The bill goes much further," he said.

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What are his chances of a happy retirement?

Almost half the people who die before they reach 75 do so as a result of heart disease. Yet the factors that influence this may start in the cradle. Or even earlier.

That's why the British Heart Foundation is funding research work into this and all other aspects of heart disease. But being a charity we rely totally on your support. Send off the coupon today and find out how you can help beat Britain's biggest killer.

(Figures taken from official Government statistics for 1982: on deaths under 75 in Britain)

We can't beat heart disease without you.

Please send me more information on the work of the BHF and details of how I can help. Send this coupon to the British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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British Heart Foundation

The heart research charity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital 'link' on rapist

POLICE were yesterday investigating the possibility of a link between a sexual attack on a woman hospital worker at Basingstoke, Hampshire, and two similar attacks recently at a hospital in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Remanded on bomb charge

TIGHT security surrounded a court at Liverpool yesterday as three men made their second appearance on a charge of conspiring to cause an explosion. Patrick Brazil, aged 24, of Belmont Avenue, Dublin; William Grimes, 43, of Cherryfield Road, Dublin; and Peter Jordan, 60, of St Peter's Rise, Headley Walk, Bristol, were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act on Christmas Eve. They were remanded in custody for a week.

Ex-Labour MP joins the SDP

DR EDMUND MARSHALL, a former Labour MP for Gower, announced last night that he was joining the SDP. He represented Gower from 1971 to 1983 but did not fight the last general election because of boundary changes.

Man accused of burglary

THE father of a three-year-old girl who died on Tuesday after a suspected arson attack on the family's home appeared in court yesterday on charges of burglary, theft and handling stolen goods. Paul Anthony Lindup, aged 25, who was living away from his family when fire swept their house in Linton Road, Tyldesley, Greater Manchester, was remanded in custody until Monday by magistrates at Leigh, Lancashire.

Six awards for frankness

THE Freedom of Information Campaign has given awards to six organisations for their work in promoting greater openness in 1984. They are Bradford City Council; the Welsh Water Authority; the Inner London Education Authority; Brent Borough Council; the Yorkshire Evening Press; and Social Audit.

\$2m college for prison officers

THE Home Office has paid more than £2 million for the 323-acre Newbold Revel estate near Rugby, Warwickshire, and plans to open it as a prison officers' training college.

Ford strikers go back

FOUR men who walked out at Ford's Halewood car factory on Thursday will return to work on Monday. Ford said yesterday that union leaders had given an assurance that the four men, who fit electric wiring, will work "according to the company's requirements."

Dockers' leader to quit job

THE leader of Southampton dockers has applied for severance pay. Mr Ritchie Pearce, who has worked at the port for 22 years, will qualify for the maximum amount, £25,000. Workers and management are in dispute over shift and manning levels at the container port, which has stood idle since October last year. But Mr Pearce said yesterday that personal reasons led to his decision.

OBITUARY

Former deputy chief of CIA

ROBERT F. CUSHMAN junior, a retired Marine Corps general who was deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1966 to 1972, has died after a heart attack, aged 70. During 40 years' active service he was one of the most decorated US veterans of the second world war, and was a commanding general in Vietnam.

Rugby League correspondent

ARTHUR BROOKS, the Rugby League correspondent of the Daily Mirror, died yesterday, aged 80. He joined the Mirror in Manchester as a news reporter in 1955, became an assistant news editor in 1969 and succeeded Joe Humphreys as rugby league correspondent in 1976. He covered the World Cup in Australia in 1977 and the Great Britain tours of 1979 and 1984 and was also an experienced football reporter.

Radio officer tells of Australian Prime Minister's message as cloud from bomb drifted over mainland

What the hell's going on? Cable to No 10

By Paul Brown

A signal demanding "What the hell's going on? The cloud is drifting over the mainland?" was sent from Sir Robert Menzies to Sir Anthony Eden, hours after a 1956 nuclear test in the Monte Bello Islands an Australian Royal Commission was told in London yesterday.

Mr Bernard Perkins, who was serving on HMS Narvik as a radio officer, told the commission that the captain and the scientist in charge were asked to look at the message. The Narvik was standing off the Western Australian Islands during the tests. The message from the Australian Prime Minister was put into code and sent to Sir Anthony at No. 10 Downing Street.

Mr Justice McClelland, the commission chairman, joked: "I am shocked to think that Sir Robert Menzies could use language like that."

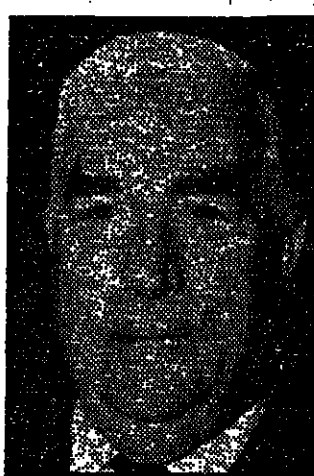
Mr Perkins, who works for Ford at Dagenham, Essex, was

giving evidence on the second day of the London hearings held by the commission, which is examining the safety of British nuclear tests in Australia and the Pacific in the fifties.

He said the Narvik crew were paid a shilling a day danger money. Although he was aware that the nuclear weapons were on board, he thought the payment was because of the risk of explosions rather than possible radiation.

Seven days after the first test, explosion he and other men were allowed onto the island. There were no restrictions on movement and they went to look at the hill where the bomb had been detonated. The hill had been flattened and there was a fused, glass-like substance on the ground which looked like ice. "We tried to break it with our sandals," Mr Perkins said.

After the second explosion he saw a big cloud drifting over the mainland. A geiger counter on the aft deck "went berserk."



Sir Robert Menzies — reaction to Monte Bello test

Mr Perkins said there was a rumour that a fireball from a second explosion in the series finished close to the bunker where the scientists were.

The day after that explosion, he went on, five or six scientists wrapped in blankets and

looking as if they were in shock were brought on board. No-one saw them again. They were taken from the ship at night.

Colonel Peter Lowe, from Warminster, Wiltshire said he was among a group of 300 officers who witnessed the Maralinga tests on the mainland in the autumn of 1957 in order to lecture troops on the effects of nuclear weapons.

After the first test he went to the area where the bomb was detonated. He left when the geiger counter showed that radioactivity had reached danger level.

Colonel Lowe said he observed the second blast from inside a Centurion tank. "This was very scary indeed. I do not know exactly how far the tank was from ground zero but I know that the blast moved it about 10 feet sideways."

"I was watching" through a periscope and the periscope went opaque straight away because of the sand blasting effect, which ruined the optics. Colonel Lowe said the blast

ripped off the radio aerials, the pickaxes which were strapped to the Centurion tank, rendered the gun and engines useless.

Thirty minutes after the explosion they got out and were driven back to the decontamination unit. They were not wearing protective clothing and after a shower put the same clothes back on.

In 1973 he had stomach surgery after a tumour had been discovered. He was at present appealing against the decision not to give him a war pension.

Mr George Owen, of Runcorn, Cheshire, a former sapper, said that in 1967, 10 years after the tests, he volunteered to work in a radiation zone.

There were no warnings about health hazards, and at first they were issued with protective gear but it was so hot that they discarded it. No-one told them they had to wear it.

They had to burn equipment which could not be used because it was still too radioactive.

It was mostly blown away again by the desert wind.

Mr Stanley Henderson, of Perth, Tayside, said the Beagle Bay Roman Catholic Mission of Aboriginal People was directly in the path of the fall-out cloud from one explosion.

There were about 1,000 children there but no measuring station for radioactivity.

Mr Keith Syder of St Helens, Merseyside said that as an able seaman he had been on deck when the Narvik spent four hours sailing through the fall-out from the tests measuring it.

"There was no lecture, explanation or warning that these duties might expose us to any radiation hazard. On the way home we were not allowed in to Fremantle because I believe we were contaminated."

Russians in fear of Nato attack

By David Pallister

A leading Soviet military analyst told the Nuclear Warfare Tribunal in London yesterday about his fear of "nuclear war in which there would be no winner."

Dr Vasily Vlasikhin, a senior research fellow at the Moscow Institute for US and Canadian Studies, said: "We know the Nato doctrine includes the concept of a first strike. That's what scares us."

We will retaliate if we are attacked, and that is the tough question. No-one will win. Although our political and military leaders talk of deterrence, it is a contradiction from which I cannot find my way out."

Dr Vlasikhin, a member of the Soviet Peace Committee, is the only Russian to give evidence at the three-day tribunal being organised by Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament with the support of other peace groups.

He got out the classic Warsaw Pact doctrine that its creation and the build-up of nuclear arms had been in response to Nato initiatives. "Our doctrine is not sophisticated," he said. "It is a simple, direct, and equal security. The arms race spiral can only lead to insecurity."

He said the coming Geneva talks could start from an agreement on no first strike, already placed by the Soviet Union in 1982 — and a freeze of further developments. "The Soviet Union is prepared to go all the steps down to zero. Peace is not simply a propaganda slogan of the Communists, allegedly calling their secret designs. Peace is the necessary condition for building a Communist society, for the achievement of the maximum well-being of the people."

Earlier, the tribunal heard from peace movement academics about their belief in the inevitability of nuclear war. Dr Malcolm Dando, the chairman of the School of Peace Studies at Bradford University, said that the speed and accuracy of the new generation of missiles, together with enhanced communication and control systems, meant that time to deal with a crisis was sharply cut.

He argued that all disarmament negotiations in the past 25 years had been a charade. He said possible unilateral initiatives, especially from Britain, might lead to commensurate reductions from the Soviet Union and then to a constructive response from the US.

Professor Michael Penix, head of science at the Open University, said war would come if what he described as the "doomsday machine" was left to its own devices. Deterrence, he said, was a threat to use nuclear war, was immoral, irrational and unstable.

British Polaris off the table

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

Downing Street sources yesterday said that the British nuclear deterrent, the Polaris missile, would not be included in the calculations by both sides will be a stumbling block to eventual success on disarmament.

The Soviet Union insists that as the French and British nuclear systems are targeted against the Warsaw pact countries they must be counted in the United States missile in the disarmament talks if parity is to be maintained between East and West.

Mrs Thatcher remains firmly against this, as she emphasised during her recent visit to Washington.

According to Downing Street sources, Mrs Thatcher has no plans to make a statement to the Commons next Wednesday when MPs return from their Christmas recess about her visit last month to the Far East and Washington.

Opposition MPs are determined to press the Prime Minister about this issue.

Shot nurse flown home

Mrs Christina Mullins, a Bristol nurse who was crippled after an attack by armed bandits in Peru, was flown to Britain in an air ambulance yesterday. She was taken to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire.

Mrs Mullins, aged 24, was shot by two men demanding money during an archaeological study holiday. Another British nurse, Ms Sarah Bellshaw, was the last of life and villagers took her to a nearby town by horse and cart. She was taken to hospital for treatment.

Uproar over sentences for attack on youth

Uproar broke out at the Old Bailey in London yesterday after two teenagers had been sentenced to youth custody for their part in an attack on a 17-year-old boy who died on a life support machine two days later.

The victim's father yelled from the public gallery: "I will kill you. Four years. They have murdered my son. A woman shouted: 'They are bastards. I swear I will kill them.'"

One youth had earlier been sentenced to four years' youth custody for the unlawful wounding of a south London motor mechanic, David Sibun, and a second was given two years for causing him actual bodily harm.



Simon Hughes: critical of DPP

After officials had cleared the court Mr Recorder Arlidge, QC, said he had based his sentences on the fact that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided that neither youth should be charged with murder or manslaughter, bearing in mind that a jury had to be satisfied that they were directly responsible for the victim's death.

The Liberal MP for South-

Simon Hughes, last night called the DPP decision "an error of judgment which has denied justice, and brought the criminal justice system into disrepute."

Michael Leahy, aged 17, unemployed, of Southwark Park Road, Brixton, London, and Darren Lloyd, aged 19, unemployed, of Phurlands Estate, Flaxman Road, Camberwell, London, were given four years' and two years' youth custody respectively.

Leahy pleaded guilty to unlawfully wounding Mr Sibun of Lynton Road, Bermondsey, London, on January 1 last year, and Lloyd admitted causing him actual bodily harm.

Leahy also admitted causing an affray, for which he was given a concurrent youth custody sentence of two years.

Mr Recorder Arlidge said that a pathologist had concluded that Mr Sibun's death could have been caused by his falling heavily during a fracas in the street, rather than by the kicks he received as he lay on the ground.

"To prove manslaughter you would have to satisfy a jury that the fatal injury was caused by something being directly done by one or other of the defendants to the deceased, but on the evidence the fatal injury could have been caused by the fall," he said.

Mr Godfrey Carey, prosecuting, told the court that the trouble started after Mr Sibun, who was walking his two dogs, became angry when a brick thrown by Lloyd at Leahy hit a car window and frightened the dogs.

Mr Sibun chased the defendants and two of their friends, but was cornered in an alley, where he fell and was kicked in the head. Leahy reached out to his face and left hand from a kitchen knife carried by Leahy.

Mr Sibun died in Guy's Hos-

'Ministers wrong' on orders to Belgrano

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Argentinian signals intercepted and decoded by the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham conflict with the official version of events surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands campaign.

In particular, they are understood to contradict claims by ministers that the Argentinian cruiser was part of a pincer movement directed against the British task force.

A signal from the Argentinian fleet headquarters—believed to have been decoded by GCHQ late on April 29, nearly four days before the Belgrano was attacked—ordered the cruiser to patrol to a point south of the total exclusion zone declared by Britain.

A second signal was intercepted by GCHQ at about 8 pm London time on April 30. This revealed that the Argentinian naval commanders ordered a pincer movement consisting of a northern surface group led by the aircraft carrier, the *Venturino de Mayo*, and a central group of French-built corvettes, but not the Belgrano.

On the night of May 1/2, a third signal—also believed to have been intercepted—ordered the two groups to stay put. By that time, the carrier had already changed course having tried—but failed—because of lack of wind—to launch aircraft against the task force.

A fourth signal, ordering the two groups to return to Argentinian coastal waters, was sent early on May 2.

Captain Hector Bonzo, of the Belgrano, has also insisted that the cruiser's orders were to patrol "a defensive line" to the south.

Although the Government has refused to confirm when and how fast GCHQ intercepted Argentinian signals, that the Cheltenham intelligence-gathering centre did so quickly has never been in doubt.

GCHQ staff were praised for their work after the Falklands conflict and Narendra Sethia, a member of the crew of the submarine *Conqueror*, which sank the Belgrano on May 2, noted in his diary: "We are extremely able to intercept much, if not all of the enemy's signal traffic. The boys in Cheltenham knew their stuff."

Lord Lewin, Chief of the Defence staff at the time, told the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee last month that he had no idea when fleet headquarters at Northwood, outside London, knew of the Argentinian orders on May 1 to recall the ships. He did not think Northwood was informed until May 3.

But Mr Tom Dalglish, Labour MP for Limerick, said yesterday that, according to his sources, GCHQ intercepted and decoded Argentinian signals in a matter of minutes.

Sir John Nott, Defence Secretary at the time, told the foreign affairs committee that intelligence analysts said that the Argentine carrier was involved in a pincer movement.



Mr Bill Sims offering a farewell wave in his London office as he spent his last day as general secretary of the steel industry's biggest union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, yesterday. Mr Sims, 65, retired after 10 years leading the union. He took with him the statue, a gift from the Canadian steel organisation, and the palatine.

Hospital deal with private clinic cuts operation wait for children

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

More than 120 children who need ear, nose and throat operations are to be sent to a private hospital because of long waiting lists, it was disclosed yesterday. The children have been waiting up to nine months for surgery on tonsils, adenoids, and ears at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Bath district health authority's general manager, Mr Andrew Wall, has agreed to pay the Bath Clinic more than £50,000 to treat the children.

The first 10 will go to the clinic tomorrow. They will take 10 children each Sunday, said Mr Wall. "There are 127 on the waiting list."

He added: "The children are subject to repeated infections and they are missing school. Those with ear problems not being properly treated can't hear properly. Their parents are worried."

Abolition pamphlets are riddled with errors, says Livingstone

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

The pamphlets explaining the abolition case for the Abolition Bill were riddled with inaccuracies, Mr Ken Livingstone, the Greater London Council leader, said yesterday.

They also contravened the conventions that ministers could not spend public money promoting legislation before it is passed and were similar to party political propaganda produced by the Conservative Research Department last year.

After the GLC and the Metropolitan County Councils pamphlets were published by the Environment Department on Thursday explaining govern-

"This is a short-term solution. We have some money to spare, but it's difficult to set up Sunday operating facilities at the Royal United, so it seems reasonable to hand over the money and see the waiting list go down."

The private operations will cost about 10 per cent more than they would have done had the Royal United been able to cope. They will be performed by a consultant who works at the Royal United.

The Bath Clinic, owned by the hotel chain Grand Metropolitan, is understood to be charging the health authority a fee of £500 for each tonsillectomy and adenoid operation and slightly less for the children who need grommets inserted in their ears.

The clinics director, Mr Brian Clark said yesterday: "The typical charge for a tonsillectomy is £500 but we have come to a fair arrangement with the health authority. We are anxious to help and have negotiated a lower charge."

With one in three beds empty, the private sector is facing a financial crisis and the Government is encouraging health authorities to contract out treatment. Bath was one of the first health authorities to do so. Earlier this year, it paid for elderly people to have hip operations at the King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, Sussex.

There was then a three-year waiting list for orthopaedic surgery at the Royal United. The King Edward VII was paid a reported £1,200 for each operation — £800 less than the NHS cost.

The Bath Clinic deal has infuriated the health unions. Mr Peter Gummel, area officer for the National Union of Public Employees, said yesterday: "We are disgusted. Attacks by the Government on the health service have led to this inability to provide services."

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ment policy on local government reorganisation. They take question-and-answer form and seek to scotch arguments against the ban to scrap the GLC and the metropolitan councils.

Mr Livingstone said: "We have heard a lot of criticism from the Government about the propriety of the GLC's campaign against its abolition."

"It is no accident that the pamphlet on the GLC reads almost the same as a briefing note produced by the Conservative Research Department in August 1984 and an article in its *Politics Today* publication in September 1984."

The Government claimed that three-quarters of GLC spending was to be transferred to the boroughs when ministers had admitted to Parliament that the true figure was only a third.

Misleading comments had been made about public transport, planning, GLC mortgages, the fire brigade, the control of Thamesmead development and support for industry.

The Government view says that it has produced a factual publication designed to inform MPs which cannot be viewed as a propaganda exercise. It was spending under £10,000 on the exercise, whereas the GLC is in the middle of a £10 million advertising campaign.

Demos against Harrington could close poly, says director

By Stephen Cook

The Polytechnic of North London is in danger of being closed if demonstrations continue against Mr Patrick Harrington, the National Front leader who is a student there, according to the college's recently-appointed acting director.

Dr John Beishon, seconded from the Polytechnic of the South Bank after the previous director resigned, said last night that he thought any further clashes over Mr Harrington leading to "blood on the streets" would prompt the courts and the Government to take drastic action.

A recent review by the Inner London Education Authority recommended the transfer of one of the polytechnic's departments to another college, he said. It would be quite possible to revive other options, such as the amalgamation of the North and Central London Polytechnics.

Dr Beishon intends to express his fears to students at the beginning of the new term next week. He will urge them to stop all demonstrations which contravene a High Court order that Mr Harrington should not be prevented from attending his philosophy lectures. Two students have

served jail sentences for flouting the order.

If massive disruption occurred and Harrington was prevented from going in, and if there were clashes with the police, I do not believe the courts and the Government will sit back.

He said that several influential figures have been calling for the polytechnic's closure including Baroness Cox, who was head of the college's sociology department until 1977 and jointly wrote a book called *The Corruption of the Polytechnic of North London*.

The controversy surrounding action was taken against stu-

dents obstructing him.

Dr Beishon said last night that the former director, Dr David Macdonald, had demanded Mr Harrington for contravening the college's code on racism.

Mr Harrington said on television that black people could not be citizens of Britain and therefore had no civil rights.

In a separate development, a receiver has taken control of the college's student union funds. The union refused to promise to honour a High Court injunction that it should delay proposed payments to striking miners and Ethiopian famine relief.

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Dr John Beishon — warning for students

Hurd steels himself to end terrorists' privileges

THE Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, has some difficult policy decisions to make to prepare for the opening next December of a new £40 million super-gaol at Maghaberry, County Antrim.

His main problem is what to do with the remaining 170 convicted terrorists, including more than 150 serving life sentences, who are classified as special category prisoners.

There are indications that the Northern Ireland Office may end the special category and face the inevitable storm that it will create.

Although officials studiously avoid the term prisoner-of-war new special category prisoners enjoy a regime at the Maze prison living in huddled compounds

Completion of Ulster's new prison will spell the end of the paramilitary PoW compounds at the Maze. Bob Rodwell reports

in which they move about freely during the day, doing no compulsory work and having virtually no day-to-day contact with prison officers.

They are disciplined by the officially recognised "commanding officers" of their own particular paramilitary organisation.

They are men whose crimes were committed before March 31, 1976. Men who may have committed identical crime since then live under a normal prison regime in which they recognise paramilitary command structure and entirely under the supervision of prison officers.

The design of Maghaberry Prison, Long Newton, County

Durham, modified in the light of the official inquiry into the 1983 Maze prison mass escape. It will add 455 cells for men and 55 for women to Ulster's prison accommodation, bringing the total to 2,280.

Last Monday the province's prison population numbered 2,038. It has been falling steadily from its 1976 peak of more than 3,000. Before the present troubles began in the early 70s the average was 600.

So Mr Hurd's problems are not lack of prison space but an impending surplus.

Staff in the Northern Ireland prison service outnumber prisoners by more than 3 to 1 and there can be no question of bringing

Maghaberry into use without closing at least one of the present five adult prisons.

An obvious candidate is Armagh gaol, where 28 women prisoners, including one special category inmate, are housed.

Crumlin Road prison, Belfast, old but in good repair, and the Maze and Hagillan prisons have 11 modern H-blocks between them, each with 100 cells.

The 170 special category men are held in the Maze at high cost in five segregated compounds. Two are for Provisional IRA and Irish National Liberation Army, one for the Ulster Defence Association, one for the Ulster Volunteer Force, and one oc-

cupied by six members of the defunct Official IRA.

Although there is no day-to-day control by prison officers of the compounds, staffing is high, with numerous internal and perimeter check points and lookouts.

One obvious economy will be to close the huddled compounds composed of Nissen huts put up more than 13 years ago, and to move the special category men into prison existing cell blocks. That would mean removing some of the prisoners' present privileges.

The authorities could offer to leave the cell doors open allowing inmates to wander around the blocks as they do around the compounds, locking them up if there was any

hint of an industrial relations dispute between prison management and warders.

There is also a security dimension. Prison officers can go into the compounds in strength if there is a disturbance. Cell blocks could be barricaded making it much more difficult to regain control.

But if special category privileges are retained by men moving from H-blocks that could provoke demands for similar privileges from the present H-block inmates who include veterans of the 1979 to 1981 dirty protest and hunger strikes.

Some of the special category privileges—free association, own clothes, no compulsory work—were among the

famous five demands for which 10 men starved themselves to death in 1981.

It is against this background that the Northern Ireland Office feels it may have to bite on the bullet and end special category status altogether.

In any case the number of such prisoners is bound to fall. The first special category "lifers" have already been given provisional release dates. Others can expect to hear them this year.

It is difficult to forecast the rate at which numbers will fall because the life term is indeterminate.

If the Government does end special status the authorities will battle down the hatches for a predictable storm both in the gaols and on the streets.

Search for top profit cable areas

By Dennis Barker

The Cable Television Authority has written to 40 companies seeking to establish what level of interest exists in bidding for the second wave of five cable franchises to be granted this year.

Areas are not being named in advance of applications to hold the franchise since the authority has decided to leave it to commercial undertakings to decide which areas could be profitable.

In an announcement yesterday the authority set the end of this month as the deadline for replies to this initial approach. Thereafter the process of choosing will be in line with the Government's wish to launch British cable as quickly as possible as a showcase for technology.

Once the five areas have been selected the franchises will be open to all comers. There will be two months in which to submit applications and four months to consider them. Successful applicants should be known in August or September.

In this round of franchise allocation the authority is placing more emphasis on financial and managerial stability of contenders than on promised standards of high technology.

The new round comes at a time when some of the 11 pilot franchises granted last year are bogged down in doubts about the potential profits.

Windsor Television announced last month that it was in effect putting its plans on ice until the summer while it re-evaluated the situation. Some of the original shareholders behind the Merseyside operation have withdrawn.

But the authority believes that there is still great commercial interest—especially among the 26 unsuccessful bidders for the original pilot franchises.

In yesterday's announcement the authority said that although a franchise did not necessarily confer a monopoly, it did not envisage in the foreseeable future granting a licence to more than one operator in the same area.

The cable industry sees this as a further sweetener to companies worried about the high costs and problematical returns of cable.

Many contractors believe that unless they can use cheaper technology than originally specified they will not be able to make a profit in the foreseeable future. But the authority dismisses this as too pessimistic.

Medical staff want 50pc rise

By John Andill, Labour Correspondent

Paramedical staff in the NHS have called for pay increases of between 25 and 50 per cent and a minimum wage of £110 a week in their submission to their pay review body.

The 44,000 staff, who include radiographers, physiotherapists, dietitians and similar groups, were awarded a "stabilising" increase of between 6 and 8 per cent in the first report of the review body last year. The body said it had a year's work to do examining the pay situation which staff say has deteriorated.

In their evidence the unions reiterate last year's call for the restoration of salary levels set by the Halsey report in 1974.

There had been a "roller-coaster pattern of pay settlements" which has damaged the professions. Salaries had deteriorated in historical terms and in comparison to the public and private sectors.

The staff (PAMs) with the unions which has signed the 1982 NHS pay dispute in which neither group joined the strikes and disruptive action taken by auxiliary and office staff.

Their chief negotiator, Mr. Phil Gray, said: "Ordinary collective bargaining has failed in a situation where one side—the professions—has decided to use bargaining strength because the members are committed to patient care."

There is a strong feeling that this dedication has been taken advantage of by successive governments, which is why we welcomed the establishment of the pay review body, and the interim stabilising award last year.

The submission says that the staff want fair pay levels to offset the growth in earnings and prices over the past decade which has dramatically outstripped their salaries. The higher grade staff, with wide responsibilities lagged as badly behind as doctors and nurses.

A 25-year-old entrant, with three years of college training would earn 24 per cent less than the average starting salary for a graduate in manufacturing and 16 per cent less than the average starting pay for graduates. Management grades earn up to 80 per cent less than comparable posts in private industry.

PAMs had no opportunity to supplement their income by bonus or productivity payments. Their pension scheme said to be a major benefit is now merely comparable to other pension schemes.

The submission also calls for increased allowances, such as that for emergency duty, linked to salaries and wider differentials between starting grades and senior posts. The 1985 pay award is due from April 1.

Teachers ready to disrupt exams in pay battle

By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Teachers in England, Wales, and Scotland are preparing to use their ultimate weapon in their fight for better pay—the disruption of school examinations. They are likely to be offered three per cent.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is ready to boycott preparatory work for the new GCSE 16-plus examination, while in Scotland the main teachers' union, the Educational Institute of Scotland, will ballot its members next week on boycotting preparations and documentation for the SCE O grades and higher examinations.

In England and Wales the National Union of Teachers says it is ready to consider using the examination weapon.

One branch of the NASUWT at Reading has already decided to withdraw from the essential syllabus development work for the new GCSE exam, which schools are due to start teaching in 1986. The union is giving its full support to Reading and other branches which refuse to do what is at present voluntary and unpaid extra work.

Other branches are taking the same stand as Reading, the NASUWT deputy general secretary, Mr. David De Gromby, said yesterday. "If enough teachers refuse to do this unpaid extra work it will kill the new exam."

The Scots were the first to overcome the traditional resistance to using examinations as part of the pay bargaining process.

cedures, and plans to introduce a 16-plus exam based on the recommendations of the Munn and Dunning reports of 1977 have been halted.

In the coming week EIS members in Scottish secondary schools will be balloted on withdrawing from preparatory work for the 16-plus examinations in April and May. Nearer the date, EIS members who act as markers could be asked to withdraw. The Scottish examinations board has said that it will use university lecturers and inspectors instead, but the EIS will fight this move.

The Association of University Teachers has already said that its members will not carry out exam marking normally done by EIS members.

The general secretary of the EIS, Mr. John Pollock, said that his union's opposition would not prevent pupils sitting the examination, but it would stop results getting through in time for university selection next autumn.

The Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, announced recently that about £6 million would be spent over the next two years on training teachers for the new GCSE examinations with 70 per cent of the money coming from central government and 30 per cent from local rates. The money will not be used to pay for teachers' extra work.

In London this week to discuss pay action with the NUT, Mr. Pollock said, "I am convinced we are in for a long campaign, and that the time will come when teachers north and south of the border will be involved in a joint campaign."

Clerk swindled £215,000 to pay for his gambling

A City clerk who defrauded his employers of £215,000 to finance his gambling was jailed for two and a half years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Terence Iveson, 40, took the money over less than four years, giving his disreputable habit on horses and the Stock Exchange, said Mr. Nigel Sweeney, prosecuting.

He made almost uniformly bad choices both in horses and stocks, said Mr. Sweeney. "He lost over £108,000 on the horses and over £107,000 on the stock market. None of the money has been recovered."

Iveson, 36, was consistently betting £400 on a race and on average had spent £2,000 a day backing horses. Every stock he purchased went down in value with one exception.

He used a highly complicated method of jockeying the company's books to conceal the fraud, which was discovered when the company's auditors

changed their method of checking the accounts.

Up to the time he had cheated his employers, the stock jobbers Harold Rattle and Co. of London Wall, out of the firm's £100,000 fund hoped for a big win to get him out of trouble, said Mr. Sweeney.

Iveson, of Edmund Road, Rainham, Essex, pleaded guilty to 13 sample charges of theft, false accounting, and forgery.

The Recorder of London, Sir James Miskin, said Iveson would have been jailed for four years but for a number of mitigating factors.

Mr. Sweeney told the judge that on 71 occasions between August 1980 and February 1984, Iveson had misappropriated cheques drawn on the account of his employers.

Mr. Martin Reynolds, for Iveson, said the case showed all the worst elements of how compulsive gambling could lead to dishonesty.



The Reverend Victor Stock and the restored Christmas crib at St James's.

Picture by Martin Argles

Black magic ruled out in church raid

By Susan Tibbitt

Young people dabbling in the occult are thought to have been responsible for vandalism at St James's Church, Friern Barnet, north London.

Sacred Christian symbols were desecrated at the church early on Thursday morning, but Father Dominic Walker, a member of the Church of England's exorcism study group set up in 1985, said he thought that young people were responsible, and not Satanist or black magic groups.

The Reverend Victor Stock, rector of Friern Barnet, said yesterday that the church,

which was reconsecrated last night by the Bishop of Edmonton, is to stay open "whatever happens."

He said: "The church is to be used by people, and what is the point of having it if it isn't used? I am going to leave it open."

In the raid on the church a screwdriver was stabbed through the heart of a paper baby Jesus in the Christmas crib, and sacred objects were forced from the walls with a pickaxe.

Mr Stock said he thought that the purpose of the vandals had been to take the

blessed sacrament out of the church. The blessed sacrament is consecrated communion bread taken to the sick and dying at home.

The reconsecration service at St James's was the suggestion of the new Bishop of Edmonton, the Right Reverend Brian Masters, after he had been approached by Mr Stock.

Mr Stock said that the Eucharist service would include marking the walls of the church with oil blessed by the bishop on Maundy Thursday and sprinkling the church with holy water.

He compared the service to repairing something which had been damaged. "The purpose of it all is to say that God is in charge of everything, that everything is all right."

The church has been vandalised twice before while he has been rector. Two years ago every window was smashed while the church was locked.

About a third of England's churches are kept locked other than for services because of vandalism, and theft, according to a survey last year by the English Tourist Board. In inner city and suburban areas more than half the churches stay locked.

Rock star to discuss famine aid

By Paul Keel

BOB GELDOLF, the rock singer who organised the Band Aid charity record, Do They Know It's Christmas?, is to fly to Ethiopia today to discuss the distribution of the £6 million the charity-raising has raised so far.

The phenomenally successful record, which has sold more than six million copies here and in the United States and is still top of the British charts a month after its release, was the result of a collaboration between musicians, distributors, and high street retailers, who all gave their usual fees to the famine appeal.

Mr Geldof acknowledged yesterday that the most difficult



Bob Geldof: 'politics don't concern me'

cult stage of the exercise—obtaining the optimum benefit from the money raised—was just beginning. He intends to spend up to 10 days in Ethiopia talking to government officials and relief agencies to find out how the money can best be spent.

"The politics of the thing don't concern me. I'll shake hands with the devil on the left and the right as long as it's going to ensure that this money ends up in the mouths of the people who need it," the singer said.

One of the biggest problems confronting him is the need to arrange the cheapest possible means of shipping grain and other supplies to Ethiopia. A spokesman for Band Aid yesterday asked any shipping lines or charter brokers who would be prepared to help to contact them.

One grain distributor, Mr. Bill Nene, from Lincolnshire, has offered the services of his company, Gleadfields,

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American team finds problems overstated

Water leak caused fatal chain reaction says Bhopal expert

New Delhi: Water entering an underground storage tank probably caused the Bhopal gas disaster in which 2,500 people died, India's senior government scientist said yesterday.

Dr S. Varadarajan, scientific adviser to the government, told a meeting of the Indian Science Congress in Lucknow, the Press Trust of India reported, that the water set off a violent runaway reaction in liquid methyl isocyanate (MIC) stored in the tank at a pesticides factory owned by the American Union Carbide company.

"Just half a kilogramme (about 1.1 pounds) of water entered the underground methyl isocyanate tank... triggering a runaway reaction that probably pulled the entire tank from the ground causing cracks on its concrete shield," PTI quoted Dr Varadarajan as saying.

Clouds of poison gas escaped from the tank on December 3 and spread over Bhopal in the world's worst industrial accident.

The lecture by Dr Varadarajan, who led the government team which investigated the tragedy, was the first official account of the causes of the disaster.

He said 30 of the 45 tonnes of MIC stored in the stainless steel tank escaped into the atmosphere, while the rest was turned into a plastic-like mass by the reaction. The tremendous heat generated by the reaction had ruptured valves, allowing the gas to escape.

Dr Varadarajan said phosgene, the basis for mustard gas, is added to MIC to stop it turning into plastic. The reaction between the water and phosgene probably triggered the initial process generating the heat which caused the methyl isocyanate to vaporise.

He gave no indication of how water could have entered the tank.

"Thousands of victims of the gas leak signed up for free legal aid yesterday, while

others staged a demonstration to back demands for faster relief payments.

The PTI reported that about 6,000 victims had registered with the Madhya Pradesh Legal Aid and Advice Board at four camps set up by the Government. But hundreds of survivors of the pesticides factory leak, which killed 2,500 people, staged a sit-down demonstration outside the residence of the state's Chief Minister, Mr Arjun Singh.

We will not move from here as long as we do not get justice," said Naseruddin Anwar, who lives in a shanty town opposite the Union Carbide factory.

INDIANS shivered yesterday in a cold spell which has already killed 210 people and is likely to get worse and continue for several more days. The low temperatures, accompanied by unseasonal fog and rain, have badly disrupted air traffic for the past four days causing delays to a number of international flights. A spokesman for the meteorological department said that the worst affected areas were in north and east India where temperatures had fallen to below zero. — Reuters.

About 10 people were taken to hospital after tempers frayed and police had to stop protesters who threatened to storm Mr Singh's residence.

Many victims marched through Bhopal, accusing Mr Singh's government of negligence, and demanding relief allowances, jobs for unemployed survivors, pensions for widows and shelter for children orphaned by the disaster. Official aid to the victims was suspended last week pending an investigation of exactly who was eligible for relief. — Reuters.

Michael Wines adds from Washington: Survivors of the gas leak are suffering far

fewer lasting health problems than was first feared, but the lives of thousands still may be shortened by chronic lung disease and other respiratory problems, two US doctors who investigated the tragedy, said this week.

They said that the outlook was especially uncertain for children under eight years, whose lungs were not fully developed when the cloud of deadly gas escaped.

Dr Gareth Green and Dr Jeffrey Koplan, members of a four-man medical team that the US Government sent to Bhopal shortly after the disaster, said that many of those injured by the corrosive gas appeared to be recovering well.

Most of the estimated 2,500 deaths from the gas occurred in the first two days after the accident. There should be few additional deaths in the coming months, Dr Green, a Johns Hopkins University public health scientist, said.

Many of the thousands initially blinded by the gas are recovering their sight and appear "unlikely to have long-term problems," said Dr Koplan, assistant director for public health practice at the federal centres for disease control. Dr Koplan led the team.

"To how much disease there will be, some, or none — is a matter of pure hypothesis," Dr Koplan said. "But the types of problems we found suggest... there may be some residual effects, generally what we call chronic pulmonary disease."

Doctors also do not know whether the gas will cause other long-range medical problems such as cancer, birth defects or chronic blood disorders that sometimes are associated with exposure to industrial chemicals. But because methyl isocyanate breaks down quickly in the body and is excreted, Dr Koplan said, the chances of such problems appear less likely than with other, more persistent chemicals. — Los Angeles Times.

23,000 flee Vietnam threat

Ampl. Kampuchea: More than 23,000 Kampuchean civilians moved deeper into Thailand yesterday, away from an expected Vietnamese assault on a stronghold of non-Communist guerrillas.

Thai military intelligence says that Vietnam has moved five regiments into position for the assault and expects aircraft to be used in attacks along the border.

The border was however relatively quiet, according to Thai army officers and guerrilla leaders, who said that the Vietnamese were resupplying units at Rithien camp and reinforcing those facing Ampl for an attack expected on or before Monday.

That date is symbolic as the sixth anniversary of Hanoi's takeover of the capital, Phnom Penh, in its drive to wipe out Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge government.

A senior Thai field officer, speaking by telephone from high on a border town of Ranayapattana, yesterday explained the lull in the fighting: the battle-weary KPRLF guerrillas at Rithien had changed tactics, he said, going on the offensive only at night when Vietnamese artillery was less effective.

The officer said long-range howitzers gave the Vietnamese an edge over the guerrillas, whose firepower is limited to mortars and recoilless rifles.

Correspondents here saw thousands of people in long shuffling lines, trailed by their water buffaloes, pigs and household pets, move off under a blazing sun at 8 am.

Most walked although some had their belongings stacked high on ox carts. Others pushed small children on bicycles. Mothers breast fed their babies as they walked.

Clouds of dust trailed the twisting columns of people in the now familiar scene of hapless refugees trying to stay out of the way of Kampuchean violence.

Most reached their goal by dusk — an area called "Site Two", four miles north of Ampl. In anticipation of such an exodus, the United Nations Relief for Cambodia (UNRCA) had brought in drinking water, medical supplies and other necessities. UNRCA coordinates humanitarian relief efforts for civilian refugees on the Thai side of the border.

Ampl is headquarters of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPRLF). One of three resistance groups in the coalition fighting Hanoi's control of Kampuchea.

A KPRLF leader, Boun Say, said in Bangkok yesterday that the refugee transfer was necessary because "Vietnamese forces will attack the (Ampl) camp soon." He said 33 guerrillas were killed and 229 wounded in the past 10 days of fighting.

Thailand's First Army's regional commander, Lt-Gen Pichit Kulkavajanya, said that Vietnam had prepared five regiments, helicopter gunships, Antonov-26 supply planes, tanks and artillery for the assault. After a tour of border installations, he told reporters yesterday that the battle was shaping up as the biggest clash in six years of war, and was likely to spill over the frontier.

Without referring to the type of aircraft that might be involved, the Thai Foreign Ministry in Bangkok said that Vietnam was expected to make air strikes against guerrillas along the border. "They could attack very soon," a spokesman said.

The spokesman said Thailand believed Vietnamese forces were attacking only resistance units affiliated to Prince Norodom Sihanouk or the anti-Communist KPRLF to isolate politically the Communist Khmer Rouge — AP.



A Vietnamese tank crew stands before a Soviet-built T-54 tank of the type being deployed against Kampuchean guerrillas on the Thai border

France set to offer Noumea 'special' territorial status

From Paul Webster

An independent constitution for the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, making it a special 'associated state', will be offered to local political leaders.

The offer will be made by the government in Paris, Mr Edouard Pisi, who outlines his plan for the island on Monday.

Under France's definition of an associated state, Paris could continue to influence the island's internal affairs for several years, but an agreement would give time to prepare guarantees or compensation for the local white population.

The capital, Noumea, where most whites live, may be turned into a free port while the Government is considering leasing back land from an eventual island government to protect the interests of French planters.

The island has been hit by recent rioting in which at least 10 people have been killed. The unrest involved the local Melanesian population, or Kanaks, who were demanding

immediate independence for what they call the Republic of Kanaky. Kanaks represent only about 40 per cent of the island's 140,000 population, and the majority, including 50,000 whites, wants to maintain links with France.

Mr Pisi, a former Gaullist minister and EEC Commissioner, will propose that his plan be put to an island referendum in May or June after it has been approved by the French National Assembly in a debate next month. In Noumea, Mr Pisi has said that the idea of 'improved independence' could be amended after he meets local leaders on Monday.

However, there is no likelihood that the administration will go back on its intention for a rapid approval by Parliament. The Opposition won power in a debate next month. In Noumea, Mr Pisi has said that the idea of 'improved independence' could be amended after he meets local leaders on Monday.

Although the islanders, except those who have been there less than three years, will be allowed to vote, Mr Pisi believes that at least a quarter of the Europeans will be prepared to accept associated territory status.

The associated state system, which was last used to prepare French African colonies for independence, would mean that France would maintain economic aid and security forces. Mr Pisi said that leaders of the Kanak Freedom Movement were against the idea of 'improved independence' and were ready to accept an association period. However, he must still persuade them to drop a demand that only Kanaks vote in the referendum.

Mr Pisi is likely to meet more opposition from the anti-independence movement which is linked to the Gaullist party but he said that this problem would be discussed with the Gaullist leader, Mr Chirac. The Opposition won power in France. It would want the New Caledonia problem cleared up quickly, as the Melanesian population would be in the majority by the end of the century, he added.

France, by leasing back land from the independent states would be able to guarantee a future for the white population.

Shake-up in Hong Kong Government

Hong Kong: Hong Kong yesterday announced a reshuffle of senior officials in the biggest government shake-up in the British colony in years.

Sir Philip Haddon-Cave will retire in June as Chief Secretary, the second most powerful post after the Governor. He will be succeeded by Mr David Akers-Jones, a long-serving Hong Kong civil servant who is now Secretary for District Administration.

The Housing Secretary, Mr Donald Liao, will take over Mr Akers-Jones's post, handling the affairs of rural Hong Kong.

Mr Alan Scott, Secretary for Transport, has been appointed to a new post of Deputy Chief

Secretary to be created in June.

China yesterday assured Taiwan that it would not harm Taiwan's lucrative links with Hong Kong when Britain hands the colony back to Peking in 1997.

Western diplomats in Peking said the pledge was significant as it was the first explicit statement of China's intentions towards Taipei's Hong Kong interests.

Taiwan indicated this week that, despite its previous stance, it might now want to sever all ties with Hong Kong after Peking's takeover. The colony is Taiwan's third biggest trading partner and provides the Nationalist with \$2 billion a year in business. — Reuters.

Singapore seat gift 'gimmick'

The opposition Workers Party yesterday rejected a government offer to give one of its defeated election candidates a seat in Parliament.

The WP leader, Mr Joshua Jeyaretnam, one of two opposition candidates elected in last month's election, said that party considered the offer a political gimmick by the ruling Peoples Action Party.

The PAP-dominated legislature amended the Constitution before the election, to allow three defeated opposition candidates with the highest number of votes to enter Parliament if the party made a clean sweep of seats.

However, two seats went to opposition candidates with PAP winning the remaining 79.

Pride and prejudice greets Falashas

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

AN WAVE of pride and fascination swept the country yesterday as more details emerged of the secret operation to bring the remnants of the Ethiopian Jewish community to Israel.

But the story quickly reinforced the feeling that the absorption of the newcomers into a far more modern society than their own will cause serious problems.

News of Operation Moses — the airlift that brought the black Jews "home" — struck a resonant and emotional chord in Israel's history and reminded many people of the similar operations that flew in Jews from Yemen and Morocco in the early years of the country's independence.

"Israel," commented the Ha'aretz newspaper, "has again proved its determination to overcome all barriers in order to fulfil the Zionist dream."

With the military censor still preventing any media coverage of the logistics and diplomacy behind the operation, attention here focused yesterday on the medical treatment being given to the new arrivals, many of whom are suffering from malaria, tuberculosis, and skin diseases. Reporters were barred from the immigrant absorption centres where the Ethiopians are being housed.

Officials of the Jewish Agency, the Zionist organisation responsible for all new Jewish immigrants, said that a special effort would have to be made if the Ethiopians were to be successfully integrated into Israeli society.

"We can't assume, as we can with immigrants from Europe and America, that after six months, when they speak a little Hebrew, they'll be able to cope with our laws and institutions," Mr Akiva Levisky, the organisation's treasurer, said. "Our first job is to organise their first year here and equip them with their primary needs."

The Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Mr Yosef Shapira, said that many of the newcomers could eventually be moved to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. A small group is already living in Kiryat Arba, the controversial outpost near the Israeli-Egyptian border.

But the experience of the 10,000 or so Ethiopians — also known as Falashas — already in Israel can only cast doubt on the country's ability to deal with such a different and exotic group of immigrants whose very identity as Jews has been questioned in the past. Manifestations of racism and prejudice have already clouded their new life, and there are fears that, at a time of severe economic crisis, the authorities are simply not equipped to deal with the influx.

Allya — the Hebrew word for immigration to the land of Israel — is a magic word in this country, the very basis of the Zionist experience. While officials in areas to which the Falashas have been sent were quick to stress this yesterday, the way in which the Government has handled the newcomers.

The chairman of the Council Men-ahem Anav, said that Ethiopian Jews had been sent to the north — like thieves in the night.

In an article published earlier this week in the news magazine, Kotah Be'et, mayors of the several towns nearby it clear that they would not welcome the Ethiopians.

The mayor of the southern port city of Eilat, Mr Rafi Hochman, said that there was not enough work for the black Jews, who, he said, would send up smoke and noise to sing and dance, and would set up a folk group for the tourists, he was quoted as saying.

Social workers dealing with the Falashas say that it is far easier to handle the young, whose ability to learn a new language quickly is a great asset. They are encouraged to mix nicely freely about the very different life they left behind in Tigre and Gondar.

After many years of uncertainty, the Falashas have finally been recognised as Jews in every sense, although in some cases new male arrivals have been forced to undergo circumcision ceremonies that conform to accepted standards. Most of them are deeply religious and have been adopted by orthodox groups here.

Keen Gandhi moves quickly to tackle problems of Punjab

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

Only losing party leaders, it seems, need to rest after a gruelling election campaign. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has hardly paused for breath since the unprecedented triumph which won him 400 seats out of the 507 declared so far.

In his first week as elected Prime Minister, he has reshuffled his Cabinet, purged at least four of the personal aides associated with the 1975 Emergency declared by his mother, and ordered a swift review of policy in the troubled states of Punjab and Assam.

On Thursday, Mr Gandhi appointed a top-level Cabinet committee — consisting of the Home Minister, Mr B. Chavan, the Defence Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the Education Minister, Mr K. C. Pant — to recommend a new approach on Punjab.

Mr Gandhi has also been briefed on latest prospects for Assam by the Governor, Mr Bhisma Narain Singh. Mr Singh advised him to resume negotiations with militants who have been fighting for a ban on "alien" immigration by Bangladeshis refugees.

Talks have been stalled for two years and foreigners are still barred from the state.

The Prime Minister, is also expected to meet the Assam Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, at the weekend.

Elections were postponed indefinitely in Assam and Punjab.

The appointment of the Punjab committee was welcomed by some Sikh leaders yesterday. Mahant Sewa Das Singh, a former general-secretary of the Akali Dal, Punjab's main Sikh party, appealed to Sikhs to respond positively to the initiative.

To New Delhi, Mr Jathedar Kuldeep Singh, president of the rival Akali Dal — Master Tara Singh urged Sikhs to reciprocate and not to complicate matters by dwelling on secessionist demands. Akali members in Punjab should not play into the hands of powers which sought India's disintegration, and both sides should approach the problem with an open mind, he added.

The Government also seems to be reviewing its policy towards Sri Lanka. The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr S. J. Chatterjee, has been called home to brief Mr Gandhi and his foreign policy team on the deteriorating situation on the island. The Prime Minister has also received a message from President Junius Jayewardene.

India takes step into computers

From our own Correspondent in New Delhi

India, where electricity and telephone lines are often six months late and bureaucracy harks back to the steel pens of the British East India Company, is leaping into computers.

The new Finance Minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, declared yesterday on "delay and ad hoc decision-making."

The Government, with the enthusiastic blessing of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is installing four Japanese super-computers in Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Bhubaneswar at a cost of \$22.5 million. Within the next three or four years, it hopes to add micro-earth stations in 427 districts to complete a national information collecting network.

The total cost is put at \$60 million rupees (about \$86 million). Mr Singh told reporters that the system would provide information on government spending, revenue, external finance, and the monitoring of the national plan, public sector finance, audits, banking and financial institutions. It would give advance warning on prices, reserves, revenue, bank credits, debt servicing, direct taxes, banking and expenditure control.

Mixed reception for Kennedy as South Africa tour begins

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

Senator Edward Kennedy arrives in South Africa today for a brief but controversial eight-day tour of southern Africa nearly two decades after a similar tour by his late brother, Robert Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy will spend his first night in South Africa in the black township of Soweto as the guest of the 1984 Nobel peace prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Bishop-elect of Johannesburg.

Bishop Tutu is his host, and Dr Alan Boesak, another prominent South African opponent of apartheid, invited him to South Africa, but Mr Kennedy's visit has not been unanimously welcomed here by blacks.

The pro-black consciousness Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) issued a strong statement on the eve of his arrival, accusing him of trying to use the plight of South African blacks to promote his political ambitions in the United States.

"The visit by Edward Kennedy is another visit by an American imperialist hoping to become the President of the United States of America in 1988," it said. "Ted Kennedy must be informed that the black people of Azania are not his ticket to the Presidency."



Senator Edward Kennedy: his visit is viewed with polite forbearance

and that our enemy includes American imperialism which props up the racist regime."

The black consciousness movement has, however, declined in importance and reflects a minority view in the black community, while Bishop Tutu and Dr Boesak are patrons of the powerful United Democratic Front, which is likely to guarantee a large measure of acclaim for Mr Kennedy from blacks.

His scheduled visit on Wednesday to Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, will enhance his popularity among blacks. Mr Kennedy will meet Mrs Mandela at her

place of banishment near the small Orange Free State town of Brandfort.

The pro-government Afrikaans press was quick to note the absence from the first tentative schedule of a meeting with Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, labelling it a "deliberate" omission, but it is understood that the final schedule will include talks between the senator and Chief Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu "homeland."

The attitude of the political establishment towards the visit is perhaps best described as one of polite forbearance. It was decided that the Government would lose more if it refused the senator a visa to enter South Africa.

Mr Kennedy will meet Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, in Cape Town next Friday. The suggestion that he may also meet President P. W. Botha has not been confirmed.

On Sunday, January 13, he will attend mass at Soweto's Regina Mundi cathedral, scene of many a mass rally by blacks, and address a public meeting in the township later the same day.

US raises food aid

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has increased US aid to famine-stricken Africa to \$1 billion this year and to \$1.5 billion next year.

Mr Reagan said on Thursday that the \$411 million in aid would be sent to Africa this year in addition to funds already allocated to help overcome hunger in 27 African countries.

At the same time, 69 Congressmen — Democrats and Republicans — introduced a bill to provide an extra \$1 billion of aid for the famine victims, whose plight has been given wide publicity here in recent months.

It was not immediately clear how much of the money proposed by the Congressmen was in addition to the already promised by the Administration.

Government officials were not able to give a precise breakdown of the figures because they had not yet seen the congressional proposal.

The director of the US Agency for International Development, Mr Peter McPherson, said "the latest money would boost to 1.5 billion tonnes the amount of American food aid to the continent," which started last October. — Reuters.

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Pravda points to intensified arms race as price of failure

Russians warn space issue could wreck talks

By Hella Pick

The Soviet leadership, having now agreed on Mr. Gromyko's brief for next week's US-Soviet talks in Geneva, has given a warning that the talks could founder if President Reagan's determination to press ahead with the development of space technology.

After a session of the Politburo on Thursday, an editorial yesterday in Pravda sought to dash Mr. Reagan's hopes of finding common ground with the Russians on the "military and moral necessity" of the Star Wars project. Space weapons, the editorial asserted, would mean a "further intensification of the arms race."

The Pravda editorial shows that the Soviet leadership has not been impressed by the arguments advanced in Washington in favour of a new concept of mutual deterrence, which takes account of defensive space-based weapons as well as of offensive nuclear weapons.

It now seems certain that Mr. Gromyko will press the US Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz, for a halt to the US programme of research into space weapons. He will also repeat Soviet demands for a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons tests, which would involve US abandonment of tests planned to take place in March.

Pravda again made clear yesterday that the Kremlin considers that it has already made an important concession by sending Mr. Gromyko to Geneva, and that "the business (of further concessions) is now up to the American side."

The Soviet Union, in common with the United States, is well aware of the political importance of next week's Geneva meetings. It is preparing the ground for meagre results by warning that the responsibility for failure would fall on the United States.

It is also trying to bolster its own position with public opinion in the west by repeating its readiness for "radical solutions" to the arms race, and declaring "awareness of its (Soviet) responsibility to humanity."

The Politburo had ended its deliberations on Thursday before publication of the US Administration's latest assessment of the Strategic Defence Initiative — the space weapons programme — as a crucial new element in the strategic balance, and as a concept that is bound to change East-West perceptions of mutual deterrence.

On Thursday, senior US officials also warned that Mr. Shultz would spell out US charges that the Soviet Union had violated existing arms control treaty obligations. The Soviet Union, while denying this, will come to Geneva with countercharges. There is a realising risk that far from searching for a new framework for arms control negotiations, the two sides will become bogged down in mutual recrimination.

Soviet team lacks military firepower

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The Soviet delegation to the Geneva talks is to be composed exclusively of Foreign Ministry officials, without a single military representative. This suggests that the Soviet side sees the two days of talks as exploratory, with little prospect of any substantive negotiations in weapons reductions.

The Soviet Union has made a point of including senior military figures in previous negotiations. The former chief of staff, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, for example, was one of the senior delegates to the Salt talks.

The Soviet delegation to Geneva will be led by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko. He will be joined by his deputy, Mr. Georgy Konstantinov, a veteran of the Geneva and Helsinki negotiations, and by an ambassador-at-large, Mr. Viktor Karpov, who conducted the Start talks.

Priest's killer collapses while testifying

TORUN, Poland: A police lieutenant accused of killing the pro-Solidarity priest, Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, collapsed sobbing in court yesterday after describing the cleric's murder as "frightful and cruel."

Western reporters attending the hearing said that Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski, his face twitching uncontrollably, told a story of his terror that he would carry full blame for the killing.

Chmielewski broke down near the end of his third day of testimony to Torun Provincial Court, where he and three other security police officers are accused of the kidnapping and murder of the priest. They face the death penalty.

He lost control and be-

came unable to speak after telling the judge that he had cooperated with the investigation since his arrest and added: "No one can live with that on his conscience. It was frightful and cruel. No normal man could live with it. I was sure that the whole thing would come out sooner or later."

When he recovered, Lt. Chmielewski, whose pregnant wife has been present in court, said: "I too have a family which I have effectively lost. Now I realise that the priest too had a family and that people suffer. You cannot hide that."

Lt. Chmielewski, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, and Lt. Leszek Pekala are accused of the kidnapping and murder. Colonel Adam Pietruszka, head of the Interior Ministry,

denies instigating the murder of the priest, a militant anti-Communist. Pekala and Chmielewski, the only accused to have given evidence so far, have said that they took part in the conspiracy because they thought it had high-level authorisation. Chmielewski, whose nervous condition has deteriorated throughout his evidence, was again allowed to remain seated while he spoke yesterday and was allowed regular rests.

Captain Piotrowski, who has been impassive throughout most of the trial, appeared edgy as Chmielewski described how his chief clubbed the priest. He was sure Popieluszko was dead when the body was thrown into a dam.

Chmielewski said he lied

to investigators at the beginning of the inquiry, telling them that the priest had been left alive in the forest, because he feared carrying all the blame. After the arrest of Piotrowski, whom he feared, he claimed that he gave full cooperation and added: "I tried to identify all the objects and all the circumstances, showing I was not alone."

Chmielewski said Piotrowski tried to calm him in the days after the killing and told him that a special commission set up at the ministry to investigate the murder included reliable people. He named Pietruszka and a department head called Zolniew Jablonski.

Despite the assurances, Chmielewski said, he felt "increasingly terrorised."

had the impression of being followed, surveyed, and observed all the time."

His fears increased when staff of the religious affairs department where he worked were summoned by General Zenon Paterek and told to account for their movements on October 19.

"I panicked because the people whom I could ask what to write were not there," he said. "Piotrowski was not there and I thought he was hiding himself somewhere and that all the blame would fall on Pekala and me."

Piotrowski banned all discussion of the kidnapping in his office because Pietruszka warned him that it was under surveillance and bugged, Chmielewski said.



Lt. Waldemar Chmielewski, close to breaking down, testifies at his trial for the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. A guard sits next to him.

Fourteen East Germans end Prague embassy occupation

From Anna Tomlinson in Bonn

The number of East Germans seeking asylum in the West German embassy in Prague dwindled further yesterday, although four refugees are said to be determined to hold out.

East Berlin has said that those who return will not be prosecuted and that their visa requests will be considered.

The refugees' failure to force the East German Government into granting them exit visas can be regarded as a success for East Berlin, which turned the Prague occupation into an issue of principle, using it to deter further occupations of West German missions in Eastern block countries.

About 200 East Germans reached the West after occupying West German embassies last year.

Apart from the Prague group, there are still 14 East Germans in the West German embassy in Budapest and seven in Warsaw. They are understood to be determined

to hold out until they get assurances that they will be allowed to go to the West.

Seven prominent members of the Charter 77 human rights group—five men and two women—have been detained in Prague, three days before the eighth anniversary of the publication of the charter, emigre sources in Vienna said yesterday.

The men were named as the dissident writer, Vaclav Havel, the dissident, Jiri Dienstbier, and spokesmen, Václav Benda, Jiri Ruml and Jana Sternova.

The sources said that the two women, Sternova and Petruska Sustrova, were released later, but the others were still in detention yesterday morning.

A spokesman for the International Society for Human Rights in Frankfurt said the arrests may have been made to head off possible anniversary demonstrations by Charter

From Jill Jolliffe in Lisbon

The Cabinet has demanded that President Eanes either stop criticising the Government or resign.

The unexpected Cabinet statement condemned the President's new year message and accused him of setting himself up as "head of the Opposition" instead of "Head of State."

President Eanes was not happy that the system was functioning democratically. He should resign or express his concern to Parliament, as he is empowered to do under the Constitution.

The President's office later said that General Eanes would take time to reflect before answering.

In his new year message, the President traditionally gives a critical appraisal of the preceding year, and President Eanes is not accustomed to sparing the politicians. His criticism this year was similar in tone to seasonal messages by several leading bishops, who deplored the widespread hardship caused by government economic policies.

He said that, although the country's foreign debt had been considerably reduced under the Socialist-Social Democratic administration there had been no growth in national productivity in 1984, with a resulting increase in social injustice.

The clash is a result of the reduction, against General Eanes' wishes, in presidential powers since the 1976 revision of the Constitution, and of plans for presidential elections later this year. President Eanes's supporters are organising a new political party which threatens to poach votes from the Socialists, and which will nominate a presidential candidate who shares President Eanes' ideas.

A main rival may be Dr. Mario Soares, who must step down as Prime Minister if he is to run.

Soares challenges critical President

From Jill Jolliffe in Lisbon

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rebels 'to free Britons'

THREE Britons, 17 Filipinos and two Americans captured by Angolan Unkwa rebels on Saturday are expected to be set free once they are taken to a "safe release point," the US State Department said yesterday.

A spokesman said their release could take some time due to difficulties of travel through the Angolan bush which often had to be made on foot.

The British Foreign Office said last night that Unita's London spokesman had confirmed that the British hostages would be marched south through the bush to a Unita base and then arrangements would be made to return them to Britain.

Family feud

A FAMILY feud over a mango tree in Mohiuddur, India, led to a massacre in which 23 people died, 14 of whom were burnt alive, press reports said yesterday. Last August two people were killed and nine arrested in fighting over the tree.

Lawyer expelled

A COUNTY court judge in Shaanxi Province, China, threw a defence lawyer out of court for challenging prosecution witnesses. He then found the defendant guilty, it was reported yesterday. The judge later apologised and wrote a "self-criticism" when the lawyer appealed.

Andes tragedy

RED CROSS workers were climbing an icy, snow-covered Andean mountain in Bolivia yesterday to reach the wreckage of a Eastern Airlines jet that crashed on Tuesday with 29 people aboard. Officials said there was no hope of finding survivors.

Danube doubts

CHANCELLOR Fred Sinowatz of Austria, yesterday said there would be no further work on a controversial Danube River power project this winter, but said he still wanted it built, despite international environmentalist protests.

Funds protest

THE Rockland County legislature in a suburb north of New York City, has voted to withdraw its funds, \$1.6 million, from Barclay's Bank after allegations by an anti-racism group and supporters of the IRA, that the bank indirectly supports South Africa's Government and oppression in Northern Ireland.

Executed

THIRTY-TWO rapists and thugs, many of them sons of Communist Party officials, received sentences ranging from prison terms to death in North-east China on December 28, the People's Daily reported yesterday. The five "principal culprits" were executed immediately after a public rally in Beijing City.

Chilean raids

POLICE killed a gunman and arrested five people on Thursday in separate raids in Santiago, after private homes stocked with guns and a Socialist Party research centre, the Government said yesterday.

Kohl talks

THE West German Chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, and Mrs. Thatcher will hold talks in Bonn on January 18, the government spokesman, Mr. Juergen Sudhoff, said yesterday. The meeting was originally scheduled for last November, but was cancelled after the death of Mrs. Gandhi.

Home-made jets

TAIWAN said yesterday it was developing its own high-performance fighter planes because it was unable to buy F-16 aircraft from the United States. The Cabinet said that Taiwan's air defence was the armed forces' top priority.

Newman helps

PAUL Newman gave \$250,000 to the Catholic Relief Services yesterday, to help famine victims in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. The money came from Mr. Newman's food processing company.

Evangelist dies

FORMER evangelist, David Dene Martin, aged 32, from Texas who shot dead his wife's lover and three other people in 1977, was executed in the electric chair in Angola, Louisiana, last night.

Cat-nap contract

A WOMAN, Valerie Kulas, of Duluth, Minnesota, has been sentenced to 60 hours community service after being convicted of putting a contract to kidnap a neighbour's cat.

Rebuke for the contras

From Paul Glickman in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

The Honduran Foreign Minister has called for the immediate expulsion of Nicaraguan rebels who have been using the country as a base in their war against Managua's Sandinista Government.

Mr. Edgardo Paz Bernalca said: "I think these people should be kicked out of Honduras," after learning that the leaders of Misura, one of two CIA-backed contra groups based in Honduras, were holding a press conference here in the capital.

The Foreign Minister's comments marked the first official Honduran acknowledgement of the contras' presence in the country.

The Foreign Minister's words provoked the hands of the White House chief-of-staff, Mr. James Baker, a pragmatist who is now firmly established as effective prime minister for domestic affairs.

Washington changes put the moderates in the ascendancy

From Alex Brummer in Washington

President Reagan has lost some of his most loyal hand-picked advisers in swift moves at the top that could significantly alter the tone of government during his second term.

The abrupt departure of his deputy chief-of-staff, Mr. Michael Deaver, together with the formal nomination of Mr. Edwin Meese, the presidential counselor to the post of Attorney-General, mean that two of Mr. Reagan's most trusted aides will no longer be at his side to fix the camera angles and help work out policy.

Domestic power is concentrated in the hands of the White House chief-of-staff, Mr. James Baker, a pragmatist who is now firmly established as effective prime minister for domestic affairs.

The White House said yesterday that President Reagan regards Mr. Deaver and Mr. Meese as irreplaceable because of their unique relationship with the President. Their functions would be transferred to Mr. Baker's office.

The President's foreign policy team also being reshuffled by Mr. Shultz's purge of the ideologues and the inefficient at the State Department and the impending departure of Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick from the United Nations. The four-year tenure of Mrs. Kirkpatrick's cabinet-level post as General Vernon Walters, Washington's special roving ambassador, and the veteran diplomat, Mr. Max Kampelman, who was US delegate to the Madrid security conference.

Among the key reasons for the resignations of Mr. Deaver, the aide with the closest personal relationship with the President, and the Interior Secretary, Mr. William Clark,

was their belief that their ambition for a second Reagan term had been blocked. With the key Cabinet offices—State, Treasury, and Defence—remaining closed because of their incumbents wish to stay on, it has not been possible to shut Mr. Baker off to a top department. Furthermore, soon after the election, Mr. Reagan told him that he would like him to remain in charge of the White House.

This means that possible avenues of promotion for Mr. Clark and Mr. Deaver, both of whom had eyes on the chief-of-staff post were closed.

Mr. Deaver, who has publicly complained about the difficulty of managing on his salary of \$72,000, is now expected to move to a large public relations firm, where his starting salary will be \$200,000 a year.

In terms of policy, the changes mean a lessening of the conservative pressures on Mr. Reagan.

Jury sees letters

From Eleanor Randolph in New York

AFTER a two-week recess, jurors in the \$120 million Westmoreland and CBS libel trial have seen for the first time letters sent by a young intelligence officer to his wife in 1968, claiming that "truly gargantuan falsehoods" were being told by the former general's command in Vietnam.

The letters, written by naval Commander James Meacham, now military correspondent for The Economist, were used by the CBS producer, Mr. George Crile, in putting together the documentary at issue. The programme charges General Westmoreland with being part of a conspiracy to fake intelligence in this crucial period of the war.

However, Mr. Meacham, who is not expected to testify, later disputed the substance of the letters. In a 1983 affidavit for the case, he said: "I never intended that the harsh language in those letters be taken literally."

The rhetoric in those letters is exaggerated and does not reflect my calm judgment on events of that time," he said in the affidavit. "I think it is wrong for anyone to use those letters to try to show that MACV was 'faking intelligence' because that is something MACV did not do. MACV, or Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was General Westmoreland's command."

Mr. Crile, who resumed his testimony on Thursday after a holiday recess, has contended that Mr. Meacham's letters written at the time should outweigh his affidavit 15 years later.

The letters, read to the court and passed out to the jury, said that, in one press meeting, he helped prepare. "I have never in my life assembled such a pack of truly gargantuan falsehoods. The reporters will think we are putting on a horse-and-dog show when we try to sell them this crap."

Judge says Toronto babies were killed

From Clyde Sanger in Ottawa

A Royal Commission investigating 36 deaths at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children has concluded that at least eight, and possibly 23 babies, were murdered.

But the mystery of who killed the infants by injecting overdoses of a heart drug, Digoxin, has not been solved, despite more than three years of police investigations and 191 days of public hearings by the commissioner, Mr. Justice Samuel Grange.

Mr. Justice Grange has dismissed as "preposterous" the idea advanced by some pharmacologists and biochemists that the children might have received the fatal overdoses by accident. In four of the eight cases he identified as murders, Digoxin had never been prescribed.

The deaths all occurred at night in the hospital's cardiac ward during nine months ending in March, 1981.

In that month, police arrested Susan Nelles, a 24-year-old nurse who worked on the night shift, and charged her in connection with the death of four babies. The charges were dismissed at the preliminary hearing a year later for want of evidence.

In his report, released on Thursday, Mr. Justice Grange recommended that Miss Nelles should be compensated for her legal expenses, amounting to about \$200,000, on condition that she drop her civil suit for malicious prosecution against the Toronto police.

But he stopped short of explicitly exonerating her, saying only that there was "not sufficient evidence to commit her for trial," and pointing out that she was not on duty the night of one of those four deaths and did not have exclusive access to the children.

Under an appeal court decision, Mr. Justice Grange was precluded from naming anyone he suspected of harming the children. The Ontario Attorney-General, Mr. Roy McMurtry, said on Thursday: "We did not want to have a trial by commission."

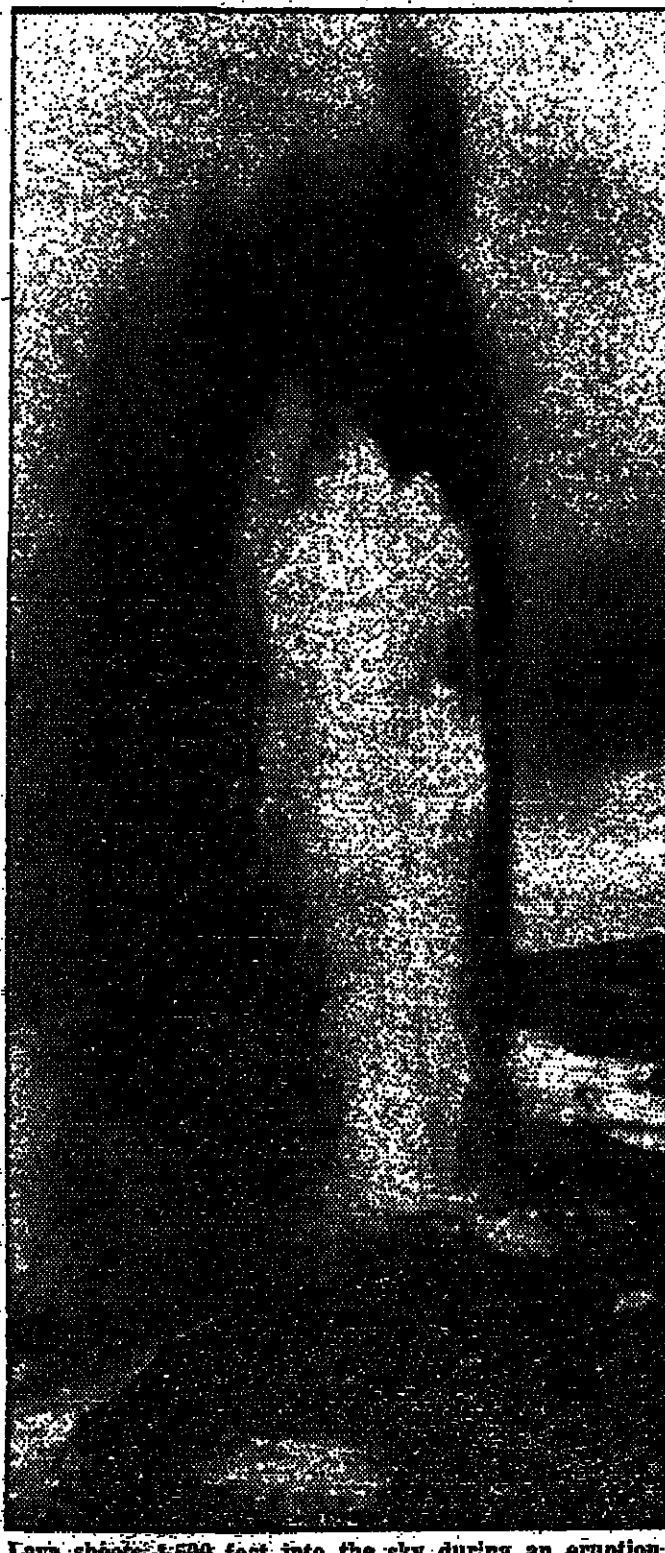
However, the hearings, which were televised and given wide publicity, came close to being such. The other person who faced suspicion during the hearings was the nursing team leader, Phyllis Trayner, after the Atlanta Centre for Disease Control had classified 29 deaths as "suspicious" and it was found that only she was present at all of them.

Evidence during the hearings showed that the police had suspected Mrs. Trayner of providing an alibi for Miss Nelles. The Crown attorney said during the preliminary hearing that if it wasn't Nelles, it had to be Trayner.

Mr. Justice Grange does not comment on Mrs. Trayner's actions in his report, although he dismisses the idea of collusion between nurses. Evidence made clear that relations between these two nurses became very strained.

Mrs. Trayner, who received death threats and hate mail during three years of paid leave of absence from the hospital, resigned her position there on Thursday. Miss Nelles is returning to work in the hospital next week, but the strains were also heavy on her family. Her father, devastated by her arrest, died suddenly in 1982.

The Grange report is surprisingly uncritical of the Toronto police and the hospital administration. Several parents who met Mr. McMurtry on Thursday expressed angry disappointment at the incompleteness of the report.



Lava shoots 1,500 feet into the sky during an eruption of Kilauea volcano, Hawaii, on Thursday

GOING NORTH 1: The alternative Europe, and a dog's life in Norway

The challenge of the forest

Martin Woolcott takes an independent track through Sweden, made easy by the hotel cheque system

FOR THE first time visitor to Sweden, or for those who have seen only Stockholm, it is hard to over-emphasise the impact of the countryside — exhilarating, unending, slightly frightening, and representing a sort of standing challenge to those who live in it. It is a key to much else in Sweden — from the over-ordered world of the towns and cities to the strange nature of the national cuisine.

As the car took us up the long sloping roads to the central lake area of Dalarna, we passed labouring figures on roller skates, literally arm wrestling themselves up the hills with ski sticks — men and women in training for cross-country skiing. This was late summer, and the muscles of thighs, back, and arms were a little flabby, so the enthusiasts were out to get in shape for the coming snow.

But people like this are not a minority in rural Sweden: in the little town of Ramele, in Västernorrland, there is a cross-country ski-run specially laid out for housewives. Tourist officers almost always begin their spiel with a litany of the available sports — sailing, canoeing, skiing, hunting.

It was the Ramele tourist officer who drove us up to the elk country north of town — through the usual spectacular succession of forests and lakes — his eyes gleaming like an evangelist's. The elk

season was only two or three days away, and his guns and ammunition were in the back of the car, and his Swedish steel hunting knife already on his belt. His hunting syndicate had been assigned nine elk, some of which we may have seen, through binoculars, their foolish looking muzzles munching at the foliage.

The evening was dry and clear, with a fine late sunlight straining through the trees and flooding the clearings. Wood was gathered, saplings sharpened with the hunting knife, and over a fire we roasted the fattest of fat bacon and thick, pink Swedish sausages. We ate these on crispbread with light beer. It was incredibly good, and all the better for the feeling that there was nothing but trees, and elk, for miles around.

Hot punch and coffee
This is an environment in which man-made things, buildings, tools, clothes have a clear value, must not be neglected, broken, lost, and in which human organisation is at a premium. In cities, towns, and villages reflect these facts.

There is a strange uniformity in them, for such a huge country. All farmhouses are red, for instance, made of wood painted with a pigment, a by-product of the great Falun copper industry, known as Falun Red.

All churches are white, inside and out, except for some preserved mediaeval chapels. A few other houses in the countryside will be yellow, or occasionally blue. But that is it. That is the Swedish paint pot: four colours, and the same palette does for small towns, although there the buildings will be stuccoed as if built (which most are not) in stone.

The Swedish small town can have an elegance and charm somewhere between the torbox and arcade. We began our holiday in the former spa town of Söderköping, in Södermanland, south of Stockholm. Such a place is a delight, with gravelled walks along the river, winding narrow streets with old shops and houses, its main square flanked by public buildings, delicious in their self-importance.

We stayed in a hotel to suit, the Söderköpings Bruk Hotel, which is the name suggests, is next to the old baths. Some of the flavour of this 19th-century wooden hotel can be conveyed by the fact that on its veranda every afternoon are served hot water, hot Swedish punch, and coffee — a lovely piece of indulgence recalling white three-piece suits, boaters, and silver-headed canes.

Then there are places, like Västana on Lake Vättern, which take you back to a much earlier period. Västana is built around the great abbey founded by Bridget Birgerdotter in the 14th century. A judge's wife and daughter, she is one of the earliest examples of the independent Swedish woman. Her nuns — she founded an order although she never took the vows herself — are now back in Västana.

Västana was a fortress of a Catholic faith already showing in St Bridget, proto-Reformation tendencies. It is an extraordinarily pretty town, with the oldest town hall in Sweden, squeezed between the bulk of its old Catholic buildings and the massive presence of another kind of fort, a huge castle on the waterfront in Dutch Renaissance style.

Ports, soldiers, and military planning of the most elaborate and obsessive kind, battlefields and massacre places, are an unexpectedly prominent strand in the Swedish scene. Every one has some recollection of the astonishing explosion of military energy and innovation which sent Swedish armies into the heart of Europe in the Seventeenth century, in the 17th century. In the Royal Palace of those famous German vic-

tories are preserved in huge oil paintings, and the tough, shrewd, successful faces of Swedish generals peer down from the smaller canvases around them.

But Sweden's time as a great power isn't the end of it. Before then, there were the great castles and forts built to defend it against the Danes, like that at Vadstena. After there is still more, notably the great military folly at Karlsborg, more or less opposite Vadstena across the waters of Vättern. It is a monument back to a security neurosis of astounding proportions and to the Swedish quality of perseverance.

Karlsborg was begun in 1819 and finished in 1899: it is an immense construction of brick and limestone, fronted by huge earth ramparts, which cost so much money that a Swedish king, visiting it for the first time, is said to have expressed mock surprise that it was not made of gold.

Located at about the dead centre of Sweden's central lake system, it was supposed to be the linch-pin of a plan to defend Sweden against Russian invasion from an inland redoubt, based on the lakes, and on a set of linked fortresses. Only Karlsborg was ever built, it was useless when it was finished, and it blew the defence budget for 90 years.

Right kind of day

It is arguable that a visitor will enjoy and understand Sweden more if he spends most of his time in the country and the small towns rather than in the cities. For all that, Stockholm is an extraordinarily handsome capital, both in its actual fabric-rangings from the medieval jumble of the old town to its 18th-century palaces, its slightly Italianate 19th-century buildings, and some of its 20th-century brick, glass, and steel — and in its location, sprinkled over many islands, sitting on an inland sea.

As in any big city, the problem for the tourist is one of selection, and an evening spent picking and planning is to be recommended. So is the Stockholm card, a very useful piece of plastic for which you make one payment and which then gives you the right to ride free on all public transport and free access to most museums, palaces, and the like. (Gothenburg offers a similar card.)

A trip out to Drottningholm Palace — not really Stockholm, but done from there — is, for example, free on the card, and is magical on the right kind of day.

The other thing one should

do in Stockholm, whatever else is on the programme, is to eat at the Operakällaren — the main restaurant, or at one of its stylish, somewhat cheaper annexes. The food is good, and the ambience — oak panels, 1892 "naughty" pictures — terrific. This brings us to food in general, and it has to be said that Swedish public food is somewhat peculiar. It seems to have two lineages. One, leading to the smorgasbord — the vast cold (and hot) table — presumably goes back to some kind of rural blow-out, some feast day array of goodies. The other, coming in a more normal three-course structure, errs, sometimes horribly, on the side of over-elaboration and perhaps came out of French cooking at court.

Although it would be possible to devise a relatively cheap country holiday in Sweden, going by boat and train, staying in one place, in a summer house or chalet, and cooking one's own food, the more mobile sort of holiday, staying in hotels, cannot be described as anything but fairly expensive.

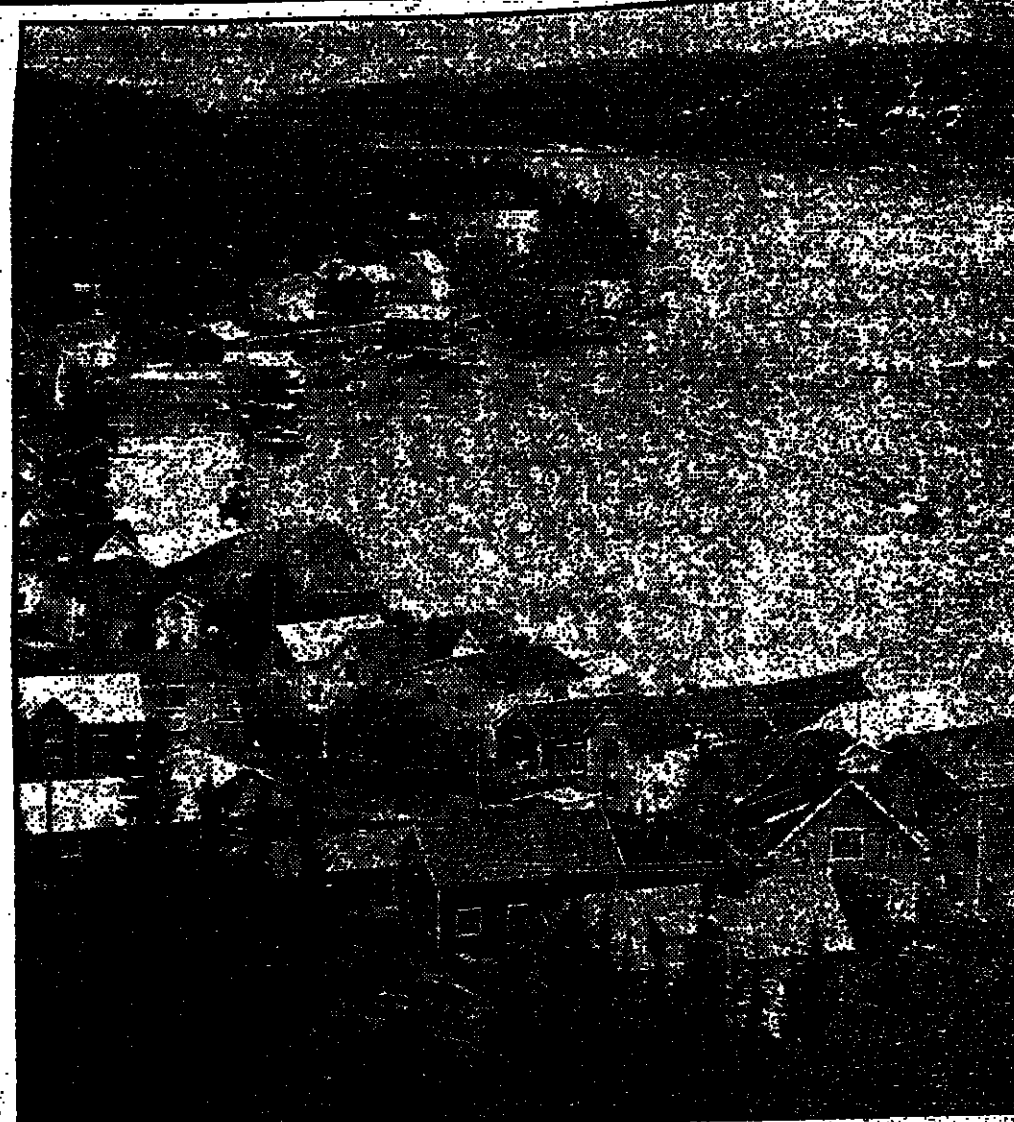
The hotel cheque system run by the Swedish Tourist Board allows you to pay a standard price for so many hotel nights, and then pick from a wide range of hotels, at most of which you will be getting an effective discount. Even so, a couple would be lucky to get by on much less than £20 a day, including meals out, excursions, and entrance tickets.

Even so, with discipline and calculation — using the cheques, and the city cards (there are some regional cards too) — it is possible to have a holiday between frugality and feast in the Swedish manner, a most excellent and broadening holiday can be had. It is a visit to a past Europe, to an alternative Europe, and to a Europe of extremes.

In the first case, Sweden shows something of what all Europe must have been like before agricultural colonisation reduced the wilderness in most countries to a string of beleaguered pockets. In the second, it is Europe as it might have been had the great wars of the 20th century been avoided, marked by the lineaments of military preparation but without the scars and legacies of real combat.

In the third it is a country where the facts of nature and life, while frequently beautiful, are also hard, and recognised as such. These hard facts make for a bracing, and in the end, invigorating stay.

Martin Woolcott visited Sweden as a guest of the Swedish National Tourist Office



Upphamm — "somewhere between the toy box and Arcadia"

Briefcase:

BY AIR: British Airways Early Saver Fare, and SAS Apex fare £159 return to Stockholm. Minimum stay one Saturday night, maximum three months, 21 days advance booking.

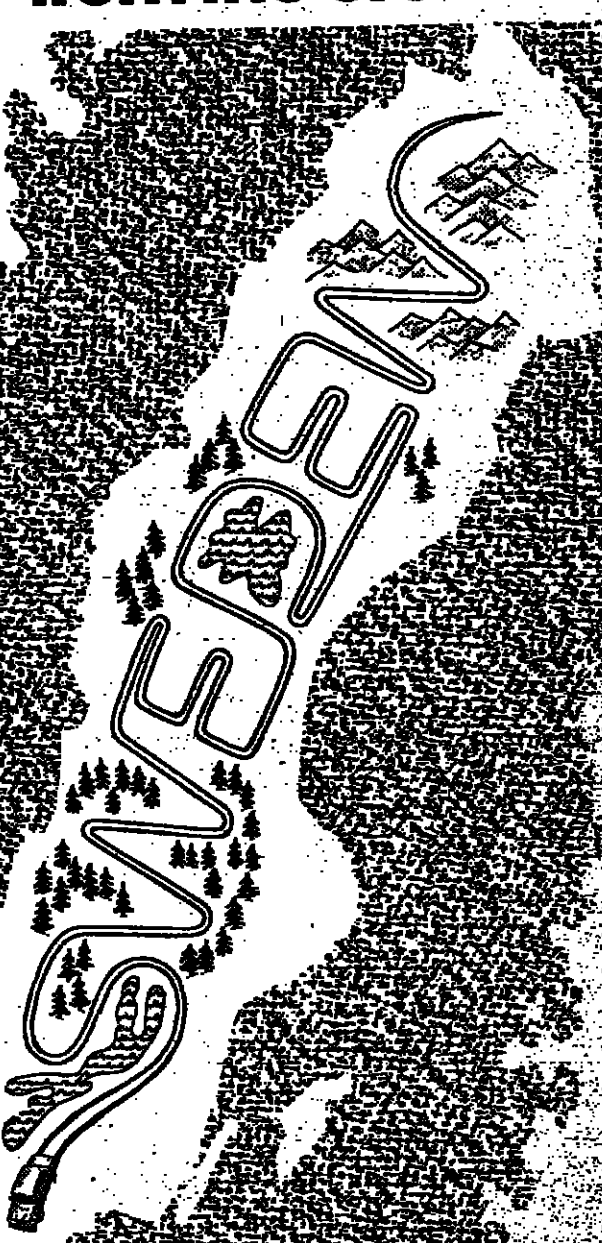
BY SEA: DFDS Seaways (0255 554601 or 05342 78777) Harwich-Gothenburg from £48 single, £68 from Newcastle. Olav Ferries (0795 666666) also run a service from Sharncliffe to Västana and Trondheim to Trondheim especially for self-drive tourists.

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CURRENCY: £1=10.41 Swedish Krona.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Swedish National Tourist Office, 3 Cork Street, London W1X 1HA. Tel: 01-437 5816.

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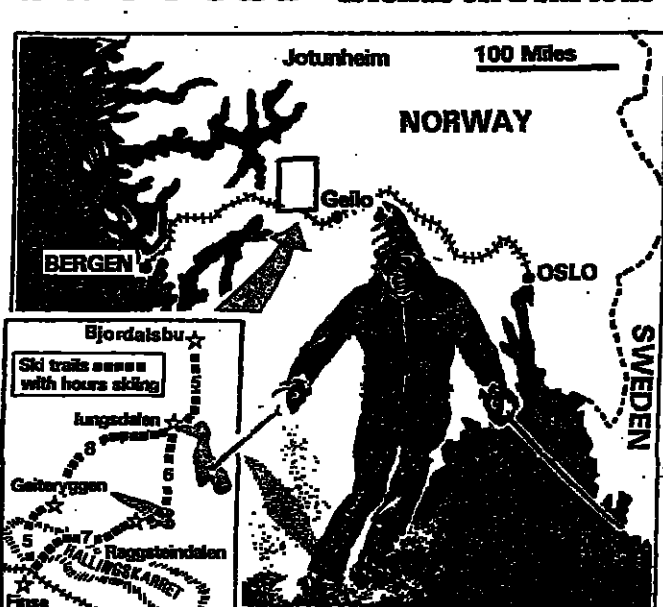
Howling success David Foster makes some four-legged friends on a ski tour

THE HARDANGER Dog-Sleigh Tour sounded like skiing from hut to hut with dogs to pull at least some of the luggage. But when I saw my rail ticket from Bergen to Finse, headed "Dogslay Tour", I wondered if I had booked for a husky pull.

We were 29 humans — mostly Norwegian and British — and six dogs: Vigg, Marty, Kahn, Chatco, Nanok and Flo. They howled to be off when, after a weekend at Finse finding our ski legs, we assembled for the start. They howled again at the lunch stop, not for food — they are not fed while working — but to be off again.

The sun shone all that day, having slipped down a glacier covered in glistening snow, we skied through mountains with cornices and cascades of blue ice, arriving at last at the Geiteryggen hut. There from the lounge-cum-dining room we watched the sun go down; a pink sky glowed behind snow-clad hills.

I pitted the dogs here at 4,000 ft chained to stakes in the snow while we occupied cosy dormitories. But I was told they did not mind the cold when curled up asleep.



The worst time was when the temperature was around zero and wet snow penetrated their fur.

It was snowing next morning when we set off into a biting north-easterly. Knut, our least favourite, was on my face, half hidden by balaclava and anorak hood, for signs of frostbite. I felt ice on the exposed portion; my running nose felt like a red hot needle. Knut's wife, Marit, said I resembled a walrus.

This was our longest day — over 20 miles — and I took advantage of two successive nights to have a good rest day, becoming better acquainted with the dogs, who were having a day off too. I had been shy of physical contact, seeing how they barked and growled, and baring their teeth and snapping at each other.

But Knut's assurance that they were gentle and liked to be caressed was an understatement. Each turn rolled over for tummy rubbing while the others clamoured for similar treatment. It was a delight to see them fed (once a day): the five Greenland huskies nearly went mad, while the Siberian Vigg picked daintily at his vitamin pellets augmented with fat.

Our meals were more varied — and frequent. I particularly liked breakfast from which we made packed lunch: a marvellous cold table of fish and meat, cheeses and preserves. The only unattended hut was at Bjordalsbu, where we melted snow to make tea before preparing our evening meal from tins supplied by snowmobile.

There were only 22 bunks but extra mattresses and just enough floor space. We appreciated the roominess at Bjordalsbu where we returned for one more night, relaxing after dinner in the comfortable lounge. The padding was enhanced by coloured mats and blankets of dried cotton grass and tansy; black-capped oil lamps

speeches at dinner, one on behalf of each nation: Bodil from Denmark was completing her 18th tour along this route; Hans from Oslo, aged 82, was making his first. He had enjoyed it, he said, but he didn't think he would do it 15 times.

Barry, our only representative from Upper Volta, referred to the pleasures of touring with animals, by which he meant not the assembled company but absent friends.

He summed up my feelings, for the dogs had made my holiday. Not just pulling my luggage, but doing so with such enthusiasm. Some of their exuberance must have rubbed off on me for I came home from this (for me) physically exhausting trip with new zest for life.

The dogs do a grand job not just on tours like this in March and April but throughout the winter, pulling to the nearest road skiers injured on the tracks around Oslo.

Briefcase:

BY AIR: British Airways Early Saver and SAS APEX to Oslo £133 return. Dan Air fly to Bergen from Newcastle for £95 return, and ex-Gatwick £112 return. Also Stoomer from Newcastle £95 return, outward flights Wed/Thurs, inward Tues/Weds.

BY SEA: Operators include Fred Olsen (01-409-2029) and DFDS (0632-575655).

WAYMARK HOLIDAYS (01-355-5015) offer the next dog-sleigh tour in March (9 nights): £425, inc; flights, meals, membership of Den Norske Turistforening (mountain-hut operators) but excludes ski equipment. Dog-sleigh tours are also offered by DNT (membership £13.50 minimum at Starting-point 28, Oslo 1 (tel: 02-41-80-20).

CURRENCY: £1 = 10.5 N. Krone.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Norwegian Tourist Office, 20 Pall Mall, London SW1; tel: 01-839-4046.

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TRAVEL GUARDIAN

GOING NORTH 2: Two islands — one in Denmark, the other, the biggest in the world



David Ward wanders through a gentle Danish landscape on the trail of a great composer and a pair of tragic lovers

Funen games

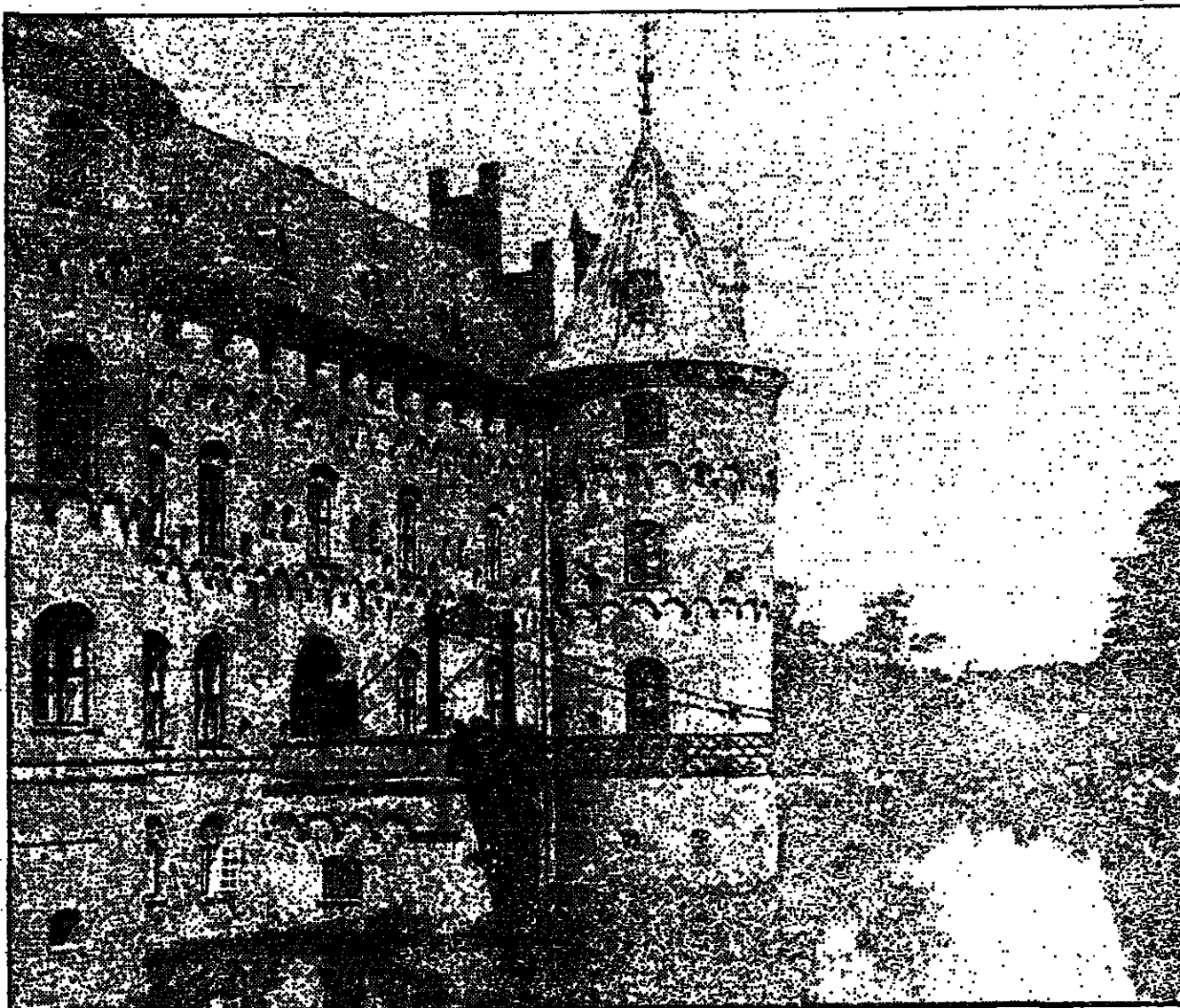
A PRINT on the wall of my cabin on the Dana Regina suggested Danish delights to come. It showed a couple foraging energetically in a tea-pot, with a cherub crouching in the handle and discreetly averting his gaze. The neat suburbs of Odense, capital of the island of Funen, turned out to be much too respectable for carnality in tea pots. There were the soft sounds of alfresco suppers on screened patios but few visible signs of people. Once I glimpsed a child playing in the street with a pink hula hoop; but when I looked back a hundred yards later, she'd gone: tidied away, perhaps.

I was in the suburbs for the youth hostel, or vandrerhjem, which means wanderer's home; if you're as old as I am, you feel most grateful that

they play down the youth bit. Danish hostels are very civilised: this one, three half-timbered wings around lawns and a cobbled courtyard, had a colour telly with remote control and teletext; maids to clean up in the morning; and a urinal operated by an invisible beam.

Most hostels have rooms for families and will make them available to couples too, which should you wish to express mutual devotion, is most accommodating. (Try making love in an English hostel; it's harder than doing it in a tea-pot.)

Odense, Denmark's third city but really little more than a provincial town, can boast a low-rise skyline, an attractive park down by the river where the folk dancers meet on summer evenings and two



Right, Egeskov castle, and left, a 1000-year-old ferry in the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde

famous sons: Hans Andersen and the composer Carl Nielsen.

Andersen gets the full tourist works: his birthplace, in what was once the rough end of town but which is now an area of preserved, conserved bijou residences, is a museum which tells the tale-spinner's life story in conscientious detail. On his second visit to Britain in 1857, Andersen was a guest of Dickens and his family. "He was a bony bore and stayed on and on," reported Dickens's daughter with some venom.

I sat in the blue-beamed, sloping-roofed library and looked out over the garden with its semi-circular pond and ugly ducklings who would never turn into swans. In the library there are tapes of Redgrave and Olivier reading Andersen's fairy tales, with his lordship hamming it up as a chicken.

Nielsen gets scant attention in the city centre, though his works are regularly played by the Byorkester in a fine new concert hall. He was born eight miles south of the city in Nørre Lyndelse and his childhood home is still there on the

edge of the village. A couple of rooms of scores and photographs are open to the public. While working on his fifth symphony in 1921 (the symphony with a part for a lunatic snare drummer), he wrote Springtime on Funen, a sweet and simple cantata celebrating his native island. There's a photograph of the first performance with the composer conducting the orchestra and a choir of 800 singers. Funen itself is sweet and simple, a relaxing rural idyll with so many pastel-painted, half-timbered, courtyard farms that it seems strange that Odense should feel the need to transplant so many to its open-air museum. It's an unthreatening landscape, at its best with trees and water, as at the Little Belt to the west or the inaptly named Funen Alps to the south. The lush fields are punctuated by castles and manors, including Egeskov, brick-built in 1554 on dark oak pillars in a lake; it's good enough to give a Loire chateau a run for its money.

We (I'd hired a car at great expense and given a lift to a lad from Harvard updating a

student guide) pushed on to Svendborg, a sunny town on Funen's southern coast. The student rang his mum to wish her happy birthday and found he had won a \$1,500 prize for a paper on the music of Tibet. (He didn't know much about Nielsen, however.) We had a celebration lunch: his muesli and blackcurrant yoghurt and my havarti cheese which, under pressure from the sun, threatened to proceed us over the bridge to the island of Tåsinge. It is on Tåsinge, in the churchyard at Landet, that Elvira Madigan and Sixten Sparre, the tragic lovers immortalised in soft focus by Bo Widerberg, are buried.

I tried to whistle Mozart's K467 as I searched for their final resting place, but the expert on the music of Tibet wasn't impressed. He had never heard of the film and was probably still in despair when it was released. I think he thought the tragic story unworthy of inclusion in a Harvard guide book.

But if he won't tell you, I will: the graves lie side by side beneath a shady tree to the south of the church. The lovers' story (army officer falls in love with circus dancer, deserts, flees, shoots girl then himself) is unfolded in Danish in a lovely little folk museum at Fregninge. Its gardens, set on a rare Danish hill, command views over Svendborg Sound towards those ill-named Alps. On the way back, I saw a Chinese

junk sailing through the Sound; at first I thought the cheese was giving me hallucinations but the Harvard man saw it too.

After Funen, I took a peculiar but enjoyable circular route (via Jutland, Arhus and the Kalundborg ferry) to Sealand, where I stopped off at Roskilde and heard, as if pursued by Nielsen, bits of Springtime on Funen on a taxi-driver's radio. At the head of pretty Roskilde fjord lies a ship museum which looks, in its utilitarian concreteness, like the headquarters of the East Denmark Electricity Board. Inside there are five Viking ships rescued from the mud and enough information about square-rigging to keep a visitor busy till the return of Svein, the last of the Vikings.

Twenty minutes away is Copenhagen. I knew I had hit civilisation when the Solentology man offered me a free personality test and the hotel manager made me pay for my one night in advance. It rained in Tivoli as one of the orchestras played in a Persian Market by the Immortal Ketteby; I wasn't sorry to join the overnight train to Gothenburg and so escape the downpour. The German ticket collector woke me at 1 am and the Swedish Customs officer did the same at 2 am. Denmark was behind me. And I had seen no one fornicating in a tea pot.

David Ward travelled to Denmark as a guest of DFDS

A thousand years of continuous human habitation have scarcely left their mark on Arctic Greenland but Simon Tisdall finds much more than white desert and black seas

A Brill night at the Disko

CAPTAIN Ove Brill flicked the throttle and sent his fishing boat surging forward, out of the harbour towards the open waters of Disko Bay. Defiantly avoiding great lumps of floating ice, he gurgled to himself, like a seal with a full stomach.

It seemed to me that the case for proceeding carefully was a strong one. But the Captain seemed to know his business. "Jah!" he exclaimed, like some maritime matador, as we swerved past another jagged chunk of ice. Clearing the headland, the great icebergs of the Jakobshavn glacier came into view, a huge, white wall stretching across the horizon. Captain Brill snorted, handed me the wheel and disappeared below.

Captain Brill, I concluded, was an optimist. That's vital, for this is Arctic Greenland, a land fit for heroes and the occasional tourist. If you don't act positive, you're finished. I stood squarely behind the wheel and tried to look redoubtable.

Greenland is the world's largest island, 85 per cent covered in a permanent ice cap which at its centre is more than one mile thick. The 50,000 Greenlanders, mostly of Inuit stock, live in isolated settlements on the coastal margin. They survive by hunting seal, walrus and whale, by fishing for shrimp and cod, by taking visitors on dog sledges or boat trips — and by acting positive.

A glimpse of eternity

But in this land of natural savagery, of ice mountains, white desert, and black, churning seas, a thousand years of continuous human habitation have barely left a mark. At any moment, it seems, the wooden houses, the snug harbours etched out of rock, all the precarious works of man, could be swept away in one cruel blast of elemental fury.

Greenland is not only ice. There are no forests, though in the south Arctic birch and willow grow, and there is some sheep and reindeer farming. In June the flowers among the 500 species of plant life come to bloom. Arctic fox, bear, caribou, polar bear and numerous birds maintain an existence of sorts.

For six months of the year comes the Polar night which in the Disko Bay region means twilight and darkness, occasionally enlivened by the northern lights. In summer, depending on the latitude, the midnight sun reigns.

The principal towns are linked not by road but by sea passage, dog sledge, and by the helicopters. Twin Otters and Dash-7s of Greenland International flights from Denmark, Iceland and Canada connect at the US air base at Sondre Stromfjord.

Harsh and inevitable

In addition to boat trips, the visitor may choose to hunt or fish, go dog-sledging or mountain walking (with guides), visit the inland ice cap or seek out the remains of old Eskimo and Norse settlements, such as that of Erik the Red at Qagssiarssuk in Jakobshavn, a group of settlements which is home to 4,000 people and 6,000 huskies, the Arctic Hotel provides good standard accommodation, and there is a dance most nights at the Blue Falcon.

As Captain Brill brought the boat up to the shore, the sun started to fall. The sun had gone, the sky had turned a sudden grey. The temperature was heading for minus 10; winter was on its way, harsh and inevitable. "Jah," said the Captain softly, acting positive to the end.

Simon Tisdall travelled to Greenland as a guest of the Danish NTO.

Briefcase:

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GRASSROOTS

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft. More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Ridpath takes up the investigation.

A flashlight in the forest

FOUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1983. "UFO Lands in Suffolk," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational. It told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation traces were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US

airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is prime documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, final proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World paid £12,000 for the story. A book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Colony's top secret report tells the facts

Mystery craft in exploding wall of colour

Animals flee from strange glowing object

UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK

And that's OFFICIAL

Colonel Charles Halt's memo on official American Air Force newspaper was headed "Unexplained Lights", dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being spherical in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 11" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp, angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the south remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply. "It's the lighthouse," he said. That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him. It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to

the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical

cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75 ft tall pine trees planted 10 ft to 15 ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 20 ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters

themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin, bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitnesses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the

event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

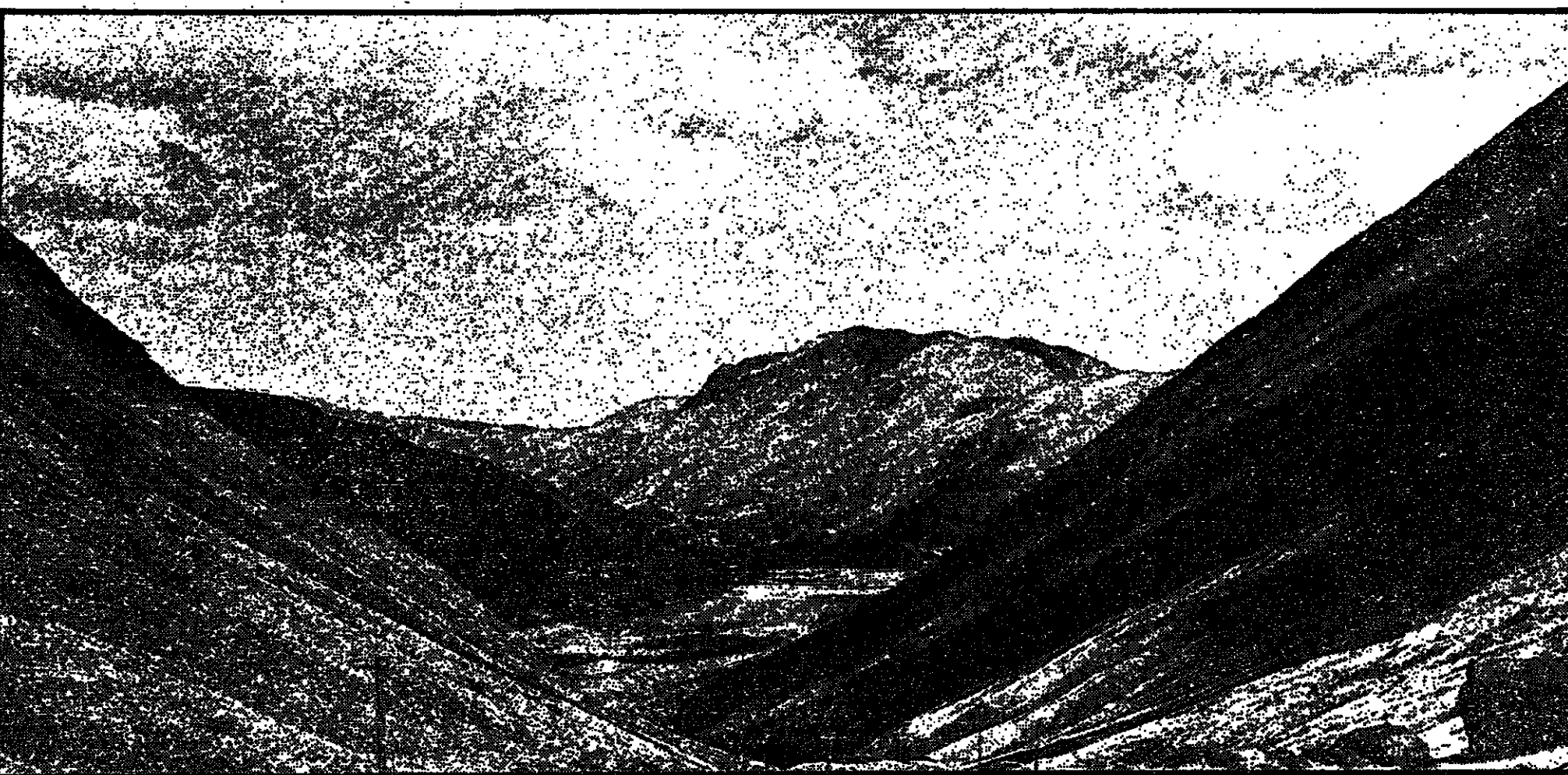
Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation. As I learned that reading like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth itself, I was left with no unusual radiation at the site.

As for the star-like objects in the final paragraph of Col. Halt's memo, they were probably just that — stars. Bright celestial objects are the main

culprits in UFO sightings, and have fooled many experienced observers, including pilots. The object seen by Col. Halt to the south was almost certainly Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a colonel in the US Air Force should identify a star as a meteor, consider the alternatives. Is it likely that a bright flashing UFO should hover over southern England for three hours without being spotted by anyone other than a group of excited airmen? And if Col. Halt really believed that an alien craft had invaded his air space, why did he not scramble fighters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue to believe that an alien spacecraft landed in Rendlesham Forest that night. But I know that the first sighting coincided with the burn-up in the atmosphere of an exceptionally bright meteor, a group of excited airmen who saw the flashing UFO between the pine trees were looking straight at the Orford Ness lighthouse. The rest of the case is a product of human imagination.



Looking down on Brotherswater from the Kirkstone Pass

Forgetting to mention the snags can be expensive

Tom Bowker, in the process of researching another Lake District guide, describes some of the hazards of the business

NEVER introduce your fall-walking friends to your publisher. Mick rang to say he would not be free on Saturday, feeling he'd better go into Yorkshire and put some work in on his Three Peaks Guidebook. Actually, I wished him well. He can keep those boggy, boring Pennine puddles, just as long as he doesn't cast his eyes north-west of Sedburgh.

My objective that Saturday was John Bell's Banner, a sprawling 2,500-foot formation, the eastern rampart of Kirkstone Pass. From most angles it looks a dull "lumpenproletariat" kind of a fall, but first appearances can be as deceptive about mountains as about authority. My assignment was to tell this unpretentious peak to less knowledgeable or visiting fell-walkers.

However well I think I know a projected walk, I feel obliged to go over the ground once again before putting mistakes can still happen. Stodgy map reading and careless inattention to detail in my last guidebook led to severe pains in my wallet; half my royalty cheque was withheld to pay for the costs of amendment slips and the solicitor's letters of an irate landowner plagued by trespassers who cited my erring directions as their authority. My wife's reaction to losing her share of the royalties was to buy me a magnifying glass.

We parked near the bridge over the Caudale Beck under a sky threatening rain. As we scrambled up alongside the boulders of the beck, I glimpsed a lone figure toiling up the fell's steep north-west ridge, our objective. I grimaced at what this sighting

could portend. Eric, my companion, seems at 55 as lean and fit as when he successfully rode in the Tour of Britain cycle race in the fifties, and still retains the racing cyclist's aggressive instinct to pass everything in sight. On a broiling day in the summer, I wondered why we were climbing Scatell at such a mad gallop. When I dragged him to a halt by clawing desperately at his rucksack he gazed intently at the solitary walker innocently toiling above us, and said: "Ah'll have that bald-headed bugger."

A hollowed path spirals steeply up the lower half of this ridge to end at abandoned quarry workings. This path is an old sledgeway, down which quarrymen used to shift up to a quarter of a ton of slate on steered sleds, or, more hazardously, running before these menacing loads like a horse. Each man made seven or eight trips a day, laboriously hauling the empty sleds back uphill every time. One Honister quarryman, Joseph Clarke of Stowthwaite, is recorded as having completed the prodigious feat of sledging 17 miles in 17 journeys and shifting five tons of slate. Little wonder that an observer recording this technique in the mid-nineteenth century, commented that the men looked "wan and worn, as if they were all consumptive or had heart disease."

The working overlook Caudale, a lonely mountain sanctuary disturbed only by the sound of cascading water, a querulous sheep call, or the croak of a raven. As we rounded the shell of an old workshop, slate clattering under boots, barely a hundred yards away a solitary



Timothy Tyson, aged 76



Colin Dodgson, aged 50

The record breakers in their marathon swim in 463 itarns

red deer doe whipped up her head in alarm before speeding away to join a group browsing placidly on the far side of the comb.

"Fancy having to climb up here in all weathers to clock on," I said. Eric wondered if the quarrymen were sent back home without pay if they were more than two minutes late, as was the custom when he was an apprentice cabinet-maker with Waring and Gillow, fitting out the great ocean liners.

Our explorations had enabled Eric's quarry to pull back the ground we had gained, and he had disappeared up into the mist and drizzle now sweeping in from the west. We found him squatting by the sizeable cairn where the ridge levels out

radiating from under its summit rim. Maybe the tarn was included in the itinerary of those remarkable Grassmere men, Colin Dodgson and Timothy Tyson. Twenty years ago they completed the incredible marathon of bathing, often very briefly, in 463 Lakeland mountain tarns. At the time Colin was only 50 odd years; Timothy was 76.

At the summit I wandered about muttering into my mini-recorder the alignment of paths and walls. This recorder has been a boon, having advantages over pen and paper on a wet day or a memory registered unreliable by too many pints of Hartley's bitter on the way home. It has a tendency to magnify all extraneous sounds, however, and after a stormy day on the tops, the playback sounds like a sailing ship's rounding of the Horn in a Force Ten gale interspersed with faint cries of command from an asthmatic skipper.

Sleepy rocky steps led us down to the high grassy saddle of Threshwaite Mouth. I decided to add a warning that this section could be dangerous under icy conditions, just in case someone being-bought down it and was found clutching my guidebook; otherwise I'd be writing for now for the next decade. I wonder if Wordsworth had these problems with his Guide To The Lakes?

At the saddle we turned north and down, and soon the drizzly mist gave way to the drumlin-dimpled bowl of Threshwaite Cove with a far glint of Ullswater blocking a shadowy fell corridor. We lunched among the boulders scattered below the wet-black slabs and overhangs of Raven Crag, with the pale rumps of

wheatstears bobbing from rock to rock around us. From his perch on Grey Crag a shepherd whistled and hallooed the commands to his dogs working sheep across the valley floor. Timeless scenes and sounds, and our pleasure in them was multiplied when a peregrine sliced across a backdrop of craggy fell in a banking power dive.

Our route led past an abandoned lead mine down to the mountain hamlet of Hartstop. With its obvious spinning galleries, its old corn-drying kilns, and neighbouring ruins of lead mine and quarry, Hartstop retains aspects of a time when many of Lakeland's loveliest corners were self-sufficient units of rural industry. The number of tea-cemeter mixers outside gutted barns and cottages would suggest that Hartstop is now largely a hamlet of holiday homes. I'm only jealous. Although I understand the political motives behind the recent destruction of Welsh holiday homes, although I abhor the violence, and sympathise with the Highlander who complained bitterly about "white settlers" taking over his township, I'd be tempted to emulate them if I had the money.

A walled lane cutting the angle between roads led us out of Hartstop and on to the shore of Brotherswater. Such a lane evokes a past Lakeland, and it is not hard to imagine a jingling pack horse train, moleskin-clad itinerant quarrymen, or a stove-piped hat and his crinolined entourage around every corner. Civilization has its merits, however, and a couple of post-lunchtime pints at the Brotherswater Hotel sent us marching smartly up the road to the car.

Peter Mullen, a Yorkshire vicar, on the curse of benevolence

No need for rats when there's Valium

THE YEAR so long dreaded has shuddered to its close and I begin to stow away my personal Orwelliana in the hen house — the nearest thing in these parts to Room 101. 1984 was never meant to be a crude prediction, but a progress report on the decline of the West signified and represented by the decay of our language and thought. Orwell's assessment was and is accurate enough, but he underestimated the tendency to subtlety and refinement in totalitarianism and coercion. No need for torture and rooms full of rats when there's Valium and Enlightened Mental Health Care. As I said from my own personal 1984 bagful:

Old Harry's wife died "on the stroke of the ten o'clock news" as he said. By the time I arrived they had taken the body away and Harry was in the next door neighbour's with a cup of tea and a bag of Enter well-meaning GP, rushed, three overworked. "Take two of these, Harry, and if you have a drop of rum or whisky in the house, that's all right; they are preoccupied by alcohol."

Harry, comprehending at the green tablets in the doctor's palm, I guessed that, behind the bemused look, he was grappling with "precipitation" — a term I had taken from a geography lesson 60 years ago: "precipitation in the Amazon rain forest." The doctor must have thought the old lad looked a bit daft. "It's all right," they were for mild anxiety." So that's what we have when our partner for half a century dies is it — mild anxiety? What must happen before we get severe anxiety? The tragic irony lay in the fact that the doctor was genuinely trying to be kind. But he was, half unconsciously, repeating the words on the drug company's hand-out. And the truth is you can't be kind by means of language like that, for the words themselves have no humanity in them. That is why Orwell was warning about the destruction of values by the decay of speech.

What sort of newspeak is it that makes "care" into "don't care"? I went to visit a young married woman who had, said the neighbour with the tea-towel and the shrill voice, "cracked up and had to be taken into the mental hospital, all of a sudden like." She had been in for 24 hours when I visited her. She was in a bare room the size of a tennis court. Right on the wall at one end was a loudspeaker playing Radio 4 at full belt. Half a dozen youngsters in pyjamas sat beneath it looking even more drugged and apathetic than they are in the village disco. At the other end of the room and at the same height as that loudspeaker, a television set was giving a deafening performance of The World This Weekend. It was certainly above the heads of the sad old ladies who sat dazed and unheeding in their armchairs. Exactly half way between these two groups — where the empire would sit, as it were — my parishioner sat with a vacant, unresponsive glum. My first thought was that if Jenny was not mentally ill, she soon would be. You don't have to belong to the School of Antipsychiatry to

tell there was something wrong with that "care." Once again, it was all so kindly intended, but the language of the "method" which was being practised in Jenny's "care" was bound to result in death to the human spirit: the first aim of totalitarianism.

And then a young man telephoned to say his first-born was stillborn; a healthy baby suffocated because of a problem in the placenta, but he underestimated the tendency to subtlety and refinement in totalitarianism and coercion. No need for torture and rooms full of rats when there's Valium and Enlightened Mental Health Care. As I said from my own personal 1984 bagful:

They were so kind there, too; eager to spare unnecessary grief." The administrator said, "Funeral? Don't you worry about that. You go and comfort your wife; we'll look after this." He offered him an unseen cremation and a memorial service when the child's ashes could be scattered in a quiet corner of a municipal cemetery.

"But I can't do much for the baby," I can at least give him a funeral."

"It'll cost you money." This was not meant to be heartless, only sympathetic — to save his grief and to save his money. But grief was something he needed to spend. Everywhere in the technological bureaucracy, emotion is repudiated and replaced by mechanism — as if that other great novelist, D. H. Lawrence, never issued his warning. The BBC — Big Brother's Corporation — detects another "problem": sexual relationships. So they made a programme to help us. They should have called it Sex by Numbers. It was all stark, leetotal, municipal puritanism; sex as blueprint and machine. You may laugh, but they really did talk about "a specific therapeutic tool" about a woman who was "all screwed up," about "sexual malfunction," "relationships" and "marriage." The estate of matrimony were a Ford car — about "going back to square one." To be fair, there was also talk of "loving relationships." But we can't have loving relationships cast in the argot of apparatus, axle, and pulley.

The hell of Big Brother's world was intensified by the knowledge there could be no opting out. And it's the same for us: there really is no alternative; there is only one environment. We cannot even turn to the Church of England for comfort since the General Synod became the Ecclesiastical Politbureau.

It was in 1984 that the archbishops begged the Synod to show toleration and relinquish the traditional (1928) Services which had been allowed to lapse. And to their credit the synodpersons did exactly that, overwhelmingly in all three electoral houses. But their expressed wish was overturned by powers behind the scenes "because of the known opposition of the Liturgical Commission." So the services which had been tolerated for half a lifetime are now illegal. But the Synod justifies itself on the grounds that it is "democratic." Doubtless good.

WEEK-END ARTS



Kandinsky (above) and (right) Composition IV, 1911

Richard Roud reports on a Paris show that points up the genius of Vasily Kandinsky

New light on an old modern

EVEN before it moved to Beaubourg, the French National Museum of Modern Art began its attempts at rehabilitating the work of the Russian-born painter, Vasily Kandinsky. There was a retrospective at the old museum, and then in 1979 a special show at Beaubourg of 30 of his paintings from Soviet museums. His work was also featured in both the Paris-Berlin and the Paris-Moscow shows in 1978 and 1979.

Now the Centre Pompidou has mounted a new Kandinsky show to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his death, and to display the generous legacy left to them by Kandinsky's widow, Nina, who was brutally murdered when her chalet in Gstaad was burgled in 1980.

The show is in four parts, corresponding to the four principal places where the artist worked: Munich, Moscow, the Bauhaus, and then, when the Bauhaus was dissolved by the Nazis in 1933, Paris, where he settled in 1933, became a French citizen, and where he died in 1944.

The organisers have also added a generous and fascinating selection of works by other painters which belonged to Kandinsky — a dozen Paul Klee, two small works by Rousseau, paintings by members of the Blue Rider school in Munich to which he belonged for a time, painters like Lionel Feininger, Jawlensky, as well as works by other Russian artists like Malevich and Goncharova.

Why this long-term interest in Kandinsky? Probably because although his name is well known as a pioneer of abstract art, the variety and diversity of his work still remain unappreciated. He is not what you would call a "beloved" artist. He is usually thought of as, doubtless, important, but cold, austere, rigorous — boring, in fact.

Like many people, I prefer his earlier work, the "typical" abstractions, especially those of his pre-1914 period. Or at least I thought I did before seeing this show. Viewing such a fine selection from his long career, one realises that his work doesn't really break up neatly into periods. There was always a

certain tendency to coolness, to the schematic in all the periods of his life, but there was also a kind of warmth, too — at least up to the final Parisian period.

What has always been undeniable was his influence on younger artists: partly because of the large number of Kandinsky's works at the Guggenheim Museum in New York (which, by the way, until 1952 was actually called The Museum of Non-Objective Art), and I was amazed to learn that he had even been represented in the ground-breaking Armory Show in 1913. As a result, he was an important figure for all the American "abstract expressionists".

In fact, the phrase "abstract expressionism" was coined in 1920 to designate Kandinsky's post-Fauvist period, and then used again by Alfred H. Barr in 1930 to characterise the later work of Kandinsky. However, he never thought of himself as an "abstract" painter; he preferred in his last years the word "concrete", although before then he had often referred to his work as

"non-figurative" or "non-objective".

But no matter what name he chose to give to his work, it has always been considered to be abstract, and, as such, it must be considered, along with that of Malevich and Mondrian, as the predecessor of that whole school of painting in America and elsewhere which took off in the post-war period just after Kandinsky's death.

Thanks to the generosity of the late Mme Kandinsky, Beaubourg now owns 98 paintings, 116 gouaches and watercolours, 510 drawings, and 97 works by other artists. As a result, it now almost equals the Guggenheim and the Lenbachhaus in Munich in its stock of Kandinsky's work.

Wisely, there has been no attempt to show all the Kandinsky in the collection: in fact, the show is very selective — 59 paintings, 16 from Beaubourg and 43 borrowed from other sources. His work is not easy to look at — one has to pay close attention to each canvas if one is to appreciate it properly — hence the very selective na-

ture of the show. But they do reward attention, especially in discovering the paths that led from the early representational work to the last works, the titles of which sum up his art: Equilibrium, Varied Actions, and especially *Delicate Tensions*.

One key as to why his painting changed so much in the Parisian period is given to us by something he wrote in 1936. "At the time of the Blue Rider period in Munich, people would spit on my works. Now they say, 'Oh, how pretty.' This does not mean that the artist's life has been made any easier."

There is a parallel to be drawn here (and Pierre Boulez has drawn it) with the work of the composer Arnold Schoenberg (a friend of Kandinsky in the Bauhaus days) whose work after 1933, when he emigrated to the United States, also became harsh and grating, and in al-

most every case inferior to the work he did in Europe. But Kandinsky's work repays study, and this show, which runs until January 28, is well worth seeing.

If Kandinsky's work is less well known than his name, what can one say about C. W. Eckersberg and Christen Købke? When the posters began to appear announcing a show at the Grand Palais of The Golden Age of Danish Painting, most people just giggled. Who ever heard of a Danish painter let alone the existence of a "golden age"?

Well, we were all wrong. There was indeed a golden age in Denmark between 1800 and 1850, and the best work of the two painters, especially Købke — is almost in class with Caspar David Friedrich (and 20 years ago, he was not exactly a household name outside Germany).

Most of the paintings come from either the Danish National Museum or the Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek, where they are permanently on display. This small but astonishing show runs in Paris until February 25.

to inject more energy into Brahms's Fourth Symphony. However, in spite of one or two leaps and bounds on the podium itself, the interpretation was not remarkable for its dynamism. On the other hand, it was acceptable for its considered shaping of each movement, with a particularly well-organised finale, and for its coolly accomplished orchestral playing.

Between the Dvorak and the Brahms, there was Glazunov's Violin Concerto with Mayumi Fujikawa as soloist. At least she made contact with the passionate kind of commitment so elusive elsewhere in the concert and proved herself more than adequate for what the score requires in colour and agility. Just a pity that she hadn't chosen a better concerto.

WIGMORE HALL
Edward Greenfield

Peterborough
String
Orchestra

THANKS to the initiative of the cellist, Joanna Borrett, and with generous commercial help, the City of Peterborough now boasts the "First and only full time professional chamber orchestra to be resident in the East of England." This appearance at Wigmore Hall marked the Peterborough Chamber Orchestra's official London debut, and the freshness and energy of the playing certainly explained the glowing reports that have been reaching us.

Two modern virtuoso showpieces for strings, Stravinsky's Concerto in D and Britten's Frank Bridge Variations both brought strongly rhythmic performances marked by bright tone and clear textures. Maybe if there had been a conductor for the 12 players (4.2.2.1) the vein of wit in the Britten would have been keener, but the ensemble could hardly have been crisper, the dynamic range more closely controlled or the intensity sharper.

Comparably the Barber adagio was done with extreme clarity. Mozart's Divertimento in Fk.138 bright too, with textures clarified, lacked something in elegance, but the work which actually characterised the band most clearly was the piece that has been written specially for them. Into The Sun by Christopher Brown, here being given its first performance.

Some of these reviews appeared in later editions yesterday. In Birmingham Rep's production of Treasure Island, Ben Gunn is played by Bob Grant, not Bob Todd as stated in our review on December 23.

Pick of next week's television and radio

Monday

Submarine (BBC1, 7.40): Latest in the BBC's fly-on-the-wall documentaries about the armed forces turns to life below the ocean waves. In the first of six episodes, four young officers embark on the Perisher, a kind of four-month war game reputedly costing £1 million a man. If they pass they'll become submarine captains, if they fail they'll never go to sea in a sub again.

Women Direct (C4, 10.55): A new season of feminist films begins with three shorts spanning 70 years: A House Divided, a domestic comedy made in 1913 by Alice Guy; To Be a Woman, Jill Craigie's 1950 polemic about the struggle for equal pay; and Coalmining Women, made two years ago by Elizabeth Barrett, about America's women miners. And that's not all: Anna Parva: A Woman's Place (C4, 9.30) tells of an all-woman assault on one of the most testing mountains in the Himalayas.

The Hollywood Greats (BBC2, 9.25): Everything you'd expect from a profile of David Niven: racy anecdotes, plentiful clips from so-so films, and oodles of old cronies saying what a lovely man he was.

Tuesday

The Last Evensong (BBC1, 9.25): When a village church has outlived its congregation, not everyone is happy. The hierarchy decides to sell it off as a des. res. As the last service ends, the church warden and the organist (Freddie Jones and Muriel Pavlow) barricade themselves in. Gentle comedy by Trevor Baxter.

Wildlife On One (BBC1, 6.55): David Attenborough pieces together a profile of pterosaurs, the flying reptiles that flourished in the dinosaur age, and tracked down their contemporary counterparts in the Caribbean.

Wednesday

Anna of the Five Towns (BBC2, 9.00): Four-part dramatisation of Arnold Bennett's tale of a young heiress in the potteries of the 1920s. Set against a background of revivalist hellfire religion in a grimy, joyless town, it's the sort of passion-below-the-surface period piece the BBC does well.

Which Side Are You On? (C4, 9.00): From the melange of miners' songs, poems, cartoons and rhetoric collected by Ken Loach, a few themes and phrases stand out: that the strike is as much for the miners' children as it is for themselves — "There's no dignity in a dole queue, that's not a future I want for you," that Mrs Thatcher is the only iron lady around; and that the police are "paid thugs." Highest point is a coolly ironic version of The Laughing Policeman.

Lytton's Diary (ITV, 9.00): After the underrated Mitch comes this new series set in the Street of Shame. It stars Peter Bowles as a suave, glib columnist with unlikely ambitions to become editor. His first story is one any journalist might enjoy: digging up the dirt on an Australian tycoon involved in a Fleet Street takeover.

Moving (ITV, 8.30): Bowles's former sparring partner, Penelope Keith, launches her new sitcom, an expanded version of the West End comedy about the pitfalls of moving house.

Thursday
Charters and Caldicott (BBC1, 9.25): The patriotic, cricket-loving blunderers from The Lady Vanishes have been resurrected and thrust into the leading roles of their own thriller serial by Keith Waterhouse. Since they are much more exorcised by the mystery of the

missing edition of Wisden than they are by finding the body of a murdered girl in Caldicott's bedroom, their priorities have clearly remained the same. Some may find the humour a mite precious. I loved it.

The Price (Ch4, 10.30): "There are more millionaires in Wicklow than there are pints of Guinness," but whether the spoils, wifely wife of the sort of business man who takes his briefcase on honeymoon — makes the ideal kidnapping — especially if the marriage is a little rocky and the husband is leery of paying a ransom. This psychological thriller serial with faint echoes of Harry's Game clashes maddeningly with the Waterhouse, but may have wider appeal.

On Finding a Symphony (Ch4, 10.30): A must for music lovers. It's the score discovered by a Danish archivist in Odense, a lost Mozart symphony. The story of the find is told, followed by a recording of the symphony made at its premiere last month.

Friday

Victoria Wood—As Seen on TV (BBC2, 9.00): Songs, sketches and a serial spoofing the afternoon soaps with Ms Wood's longstanding chum, Julie Walters.

Helen Oldfield

Radio

Today: A Sideways Look At (Radio 4, 4.45 pm). Another happy detective is the score discovered by a Danish archivist in Odense, a lost Mozart symphony. The story of the find is told, followed by a recording of the symphony made at its premiere last month.

Tomorrow: George Best Has a Word With Williams (Radio 2, 6.30 pm). Tennis commentator Gerald Williams in conversation with the ill-fated erstwhile football star.

A Woman Killed With Kindness (Radio 3, 7.30 pm). An Elizabethan domestic tragedy of lust, intrigue and revenge, with Tom Wilkinson as the cuckolded husband, Paul Donovani as the wayward wife and James Laurence as the seducer.

Monday: Winnie Holden's Angel (Radio 4, 8.15 pm). A play about an 11-year-old girl who (maybe) sees an angel — set in Warwickshire at the time of the 1926 miners' strike.

Wednesday: The Gaudy (Radio 3, 7 pm). An Oxford college's old boy gathering ends in embarrassment for some of the participants in John Hall's play.

Thursday: On The Day I Was Born (Radio 4, 9.5 am). A new, occasional series, in which well-known people talk about what was happening in their world, at the time of their birth.

Steel, MP, born on March 31, 1938.

Val Arnold-Forster

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TELEVISION

Mick Brown

Don't Say Goodbye, Miss Ragtime

THERE IS nowhere quite like Dixie for bringing out the Disney in television producers. The imagery of river boats, gambling jacks, prissy southern belles in crinolines is seemingly irresistible. Don't Say Goodbye Miss Ragtime (C4) suffered from a surfeit of all of this, turning what might have been an illuminating history of America's first pop music into a light entertainment (staged at London Docks) that was energetic and amiable but, one suspects, far from authentic — a sort of Good Old Days down on the levee.

Ragtime, it seems, was the domain of singing steamboat captains, spooning couples or sometimes maids on their knees scrubbing parquet dancefloors. It was as hard to believe this as it was to believe that someone singing of whiplorwhills came from Kansas when he patently came from the Beckenham school of dance and drama.

Ragtime was after all a music of bodily syncope and heavy innuendo that flourished in the bars and dance halls of the American South in the early twentieth century but which had cleaned up no end by the time it arrived at the court of Russian tsars as a worldwide dance craze fuelled by the frantic endeavours of the first Tin Pan Alley hacks.

It may not have been the first musical genre to rhyme moon with June but it was certainly the first to couple here's the fizz/Say gee whizz/it's the buzz/yes it is in champagne reg. They knew about the craft of songwriting in those days.

Ian Whitcomb has written illuminatingly about ragtime in the past, but his historical asides here were frustratingly brief. He is, however, a bad hand at the ukulele, the piano and, in his role here as steamboat captain, seemingly at steering his boat down the Thames without mishap. But no amount of guile or enthusiasm could disguise the fact that this was not New Orleans... but Wapping.

Mary Clarke

SADLER'S WELLS

Median

THE previous ballets made by Jennifer Jackson for the Royal Ballet School and the



Natasha Morgan and Miriam Margolyes: Bush. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet have been notable for freshness and great simplicity, nicely judged for the abilities of her dancers. Her new piece, Median, which had its first performance at Sadler's Wells last night, is altogether tougher stuff but confirms her gift for creating ballets that are primarily about dancing.

The programme has a very long note by the composer, Stephen Montague, but Jennifer Jackson offers only a subtitle — "Six of one and half-a-dozen of the other." And that is what she gives us. Six men and six girls pitting their physical strengths against each other.

It is not so much a battle of the sexes as a kind of danced argument as to whether the chaps' aggressive show of shoulder muscles (above strongly decorated blue body tights) and their occasional lifting and manipulation of the girls' bodies is really more powerful than the stabbing point work of the girls (in blue and crimson soft tunics). It is danced so well by all 12 of the cast that no one wins; six of one seem equally matched against half-a-dozen of the other.

The score is a commissioned new version, for full orchestra, of a work called At The White Edge of Fogoria, which was commissioned from Montague last year with funds from the Arts Council for the Academy of London Chamber Orchestra, with a new prologue. Montague accepts the comment — it's a kind of romantic minimal — as a fair description of his work and his score provides the drive the choreographer obviously wanted.

The abstract setting and costumes are again by Ella Huhne, who served Jackson so well in Common Ground (made last April), the dominant colours being, this time, dark blues and reds as fits the stormy nature of the work.

BUSH

Michael Billington

Gertrude Stein And A Companion

EDMUND WILSON once said that the Gertrude Stein-Alice B. Toklas message in the Paris of the inter-war years aroused recollections of a household in Jane Austen. And the Austenite qualities of cool irony and verbal felicity pervade the late Win Wells's poised, affectionate character study, Gertrude Stein And A Companion, which has opened at The Bush after winning a first at the Edinburgh fringe.

What emerges from the piece is that Gertrude and Alice were profoundly loving towards each other and often extremely lynx-eyed about everyone else. Picasso was obviously adored. Hemingway however, is neatly pinked by Gertrude with Austenish wit ("Ernest had had one of his good reviews for his not good books and was feeling famous"). An inquisitive young journalist is verbally squashed, and Gertrude's brother Leo is quickly displaced by the airy seeming Alice as the driving force in the talent-thronged, Paris salon.

Indeed the thing I learned from Mr Wells's touching tribute is just how much Gertrude's literary originality depended on the unwavering loyalty of her lifelong San Francisco born companion. Gertrude, no slouch in the ego stakes, felt entitled to the privileges demanded by genius, such as constantly being taken care of. And we see that it was the apparently vague Alice who went out and dogged Gertrude's

BIRMINGHAM

Gerald Lamer

CBSO/Furst

THE CITY of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra offered its audience a gentle introduction to the second half of the season. Indeed, the presentation of Dvorak's Symphonic Variations was so cautious that anyone might easily have failed to notice that the concert had begun — unless they were particularly looking forward to hearing Elgar's Frolaisart Overture, which had been the original idea.

In the absence of Rudolf Schwarz, James Furst, substituted the Dvorak for the Elgar and conducted it very carefully. The performance was (with one glaring exception) accurate but so unexciting that it can have been welcome only to those with headaches or some other seasonal fragility.

From the way he bounded into the second half — leaping up the dauntingly steep staircase which leads to the platform in Birmingham Town Hall — it was clear that the conductor intended

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

IF WAR is the mother of invention, philanthropy can be its midwife. Consider the inception of Paul the Magic Dragon, one of the United States' most devastating weapons during the Vietnam war, was born in the rear of an aircraft, within seconds (the gun's lightning rate of fire could stitch a village to the wall) as was illustrated graphically in the film *The Green Berets*. Yet mercy brought it forth.

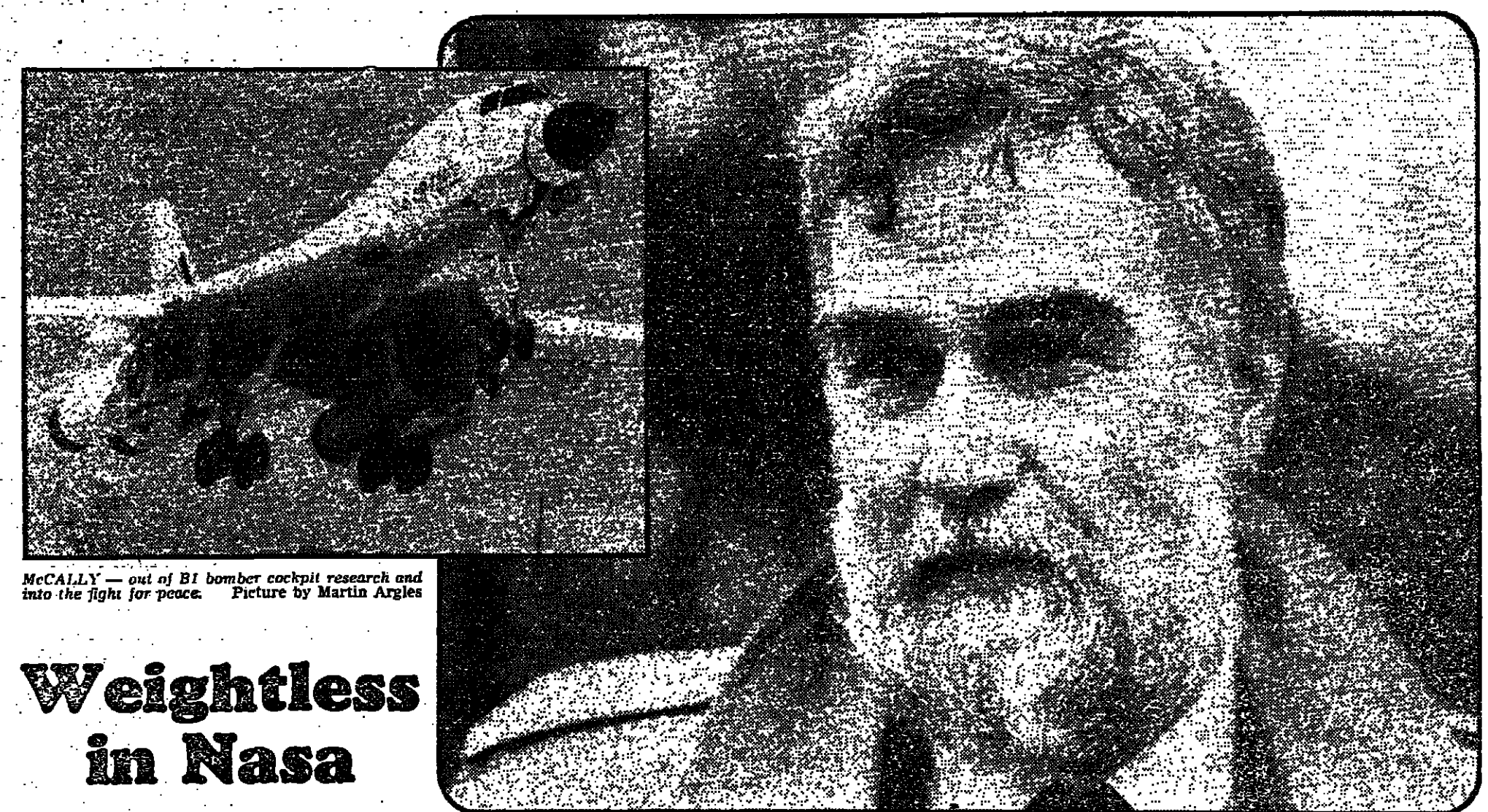
The weapon was developed in the US Air Force Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory at Dayton, Ohio, where Professor Michael McCally was then a distinctly uneasy division chief. In London for today's executive meeting of International Physicians Against Nuclear War, Prof. McCally explained how a good intention went lethally awry.

"I had a friend in the lab who was interested in rescuing downed pilots with fixed-wing aircraft. He remembered the old pylon manoeuvre, where you point the wing of the plane at the ground so that you can hover in circles. The idea was that a man at the back would lower a rope attached to a mailbag. In another part of the lab, an engineer was looking at a reinvention of the Gatling gun which could put out huge barrages of fire."

The two concepts were wedded, the pylon manoeuvre providing a stable platform for Paul. Deeming this to be an improper use of medical resources, McCally resigned.

The final straw was the discovery that, despite his security rating, he was denied access to work in the basement on laser weapons. Their basic purpose was to blind the operators of anti-aircraft guns. "Our \$7 million was being shot down with words," says McCally, "and a minimum of technology and a human operator. That was considered terribly bad form."

His involvement with the US Air Force had begun innocently enough, moving from being drafted in 1960, like many physicians, he was seconded to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration moon mission. The air force laboratory at Dayton was already a centre of expertise. During the



McCally — out of B-1 bomber cockpit research and into the fight for peace. Picture by Martin Argles

Weightless in Nasa

second world war it helped design oxygen masks, heated flak suits and the gun turrets of Superfortresses. After the war it was partly staffed with German medical scientists who had been scooped up in America's Operation Paperclip, along with German aerospace blueprints. One of these, a super V2 developed under the name Dinosaur, was a forerunner of the Space Shuttle. "It had a one-way manned bomber in front, boosting a shuttle-like vehicle which was intended to bomb the United States."

Professor — then Captain — McCally's principal task was to investigate weightlessness, the effects of which

were virtually unknown in 1961. He put people to bed for months, tested them in centrifuges and heat chambers, and simulated weightlessness in awkwardly angled aircraft. "Did you see the film *The Right Stuff*? Well, I was doing *The Right Stuff*."

These experiments prompted a close reading of the Nuremberg Trials transcripts. "We were looking for precedents," he explained. "We were using ourselves and co-workers as volunteers. That seemed all right, but there were no committees or procedures in those days."

"A field of medical ethics has now grown up in the States, because of not war

experiences but over such questions as withholding life support. There were atrocious experiments in the fifties and sixties that couldn't be done today—injecting live cancer cells into nursing home patients and withholding penicillin from black men with syphilis."

The Vietnam War forced him to draw the line. "It's a very grey line. We did cockpit design for what is now the B-1 bomber. In that sense I did weapons development. The experience didn't make me a pacifist. I didn't feel it was the right role for a physician."

He is now professor of community medicine at New York's prestigious Mount Sinai medical school, where he

augments his immunology courses by teaching military history and arms control. People must learn from history, he insists, pointing out that the current state of satellite weapons technology is equivalent to the infancy of multi-warhead missiles in 1968—a development that everyone now agrees should have been negotiated away."

He is not a unilateral disarmament believer, but the US needs to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent. However, his 10 years' experience of the military mind and weapons procurement makes him a useful voice in international Physicians Against Nuclear War during its current offensive.

This year's \$1.6 billion re-

search budget for Star Wars alarms him. "You could create a monster lobby in any industry if you put that amount of money in each year. These are not evil people, but they will spend it and we will end up with the hardware."

Los Alamos was once a boys' school. Now it's a small city of 70,000 people who work for the weapons laboratory. Some of us went there a couple of years ago. We were not well received. But most of them are just doing a job. Their attitude is 'If we don't do it someone else will'."

He believes American doctors have injected a note of moral authority and urgency into the debate. Of 40,000 in

the States, 25,000 belong to Physicians for Social Responsibility. This summer he will visit China to promote the idea of a comprehensive test ban treaty. But talks and arms control are insufficient without a more positive lead from Reagan, he says.

"We have to learn to control our technology. The most striking danger about Star Wars is that it will be totally computer controlled. There's no human in the loop: 80 per cent of the destruction has to be done in the lift-off phase. We are talking about 90 seconds."

In fact, as we were talking, news was being released of a Soviet cruise missile crashing in Finland.

Manchester Guardian 1935

JANUARY 7: The coming week will be a dramatic one for the Hauptmann trial (Bruno Hauptmann, a German was accused of the murder of the Lindbergh baby). The trial is being made one of those Roman holidays which are such a conspicuous aspect of current civilisation in the United States. The newspapers are devoting tremendous space to reporting the event, and every development printing 50,000 words or more daily. Hundreds of special telegraph wires have been installed in the courthouse of Flemington, New Jersey, where the trial is taking place.

Every bed in the village is occupied, and in the emergency visiting journalists are sleeping in reclining chairs and on the traditional billiard table tops. Among those who are reporting the trial are distinguished popular novelists, film authors and writers of gossip columns. These temporary journalists are universally called "trained seals" by working newspapermen because they must be fed with news by hand, as a trainer gives bits of fish to performing seals in a music-hall. All the chief news commentators by wireless are spending their days at the trial, and every development is recorded by a multitude of motion-picture cameras.

JANUARY 8: Mr Eddie Cantor, the American film and wireless comedian, who spoke in his broadcast last week on road deaths, visited the Minister of Transport, Mr Horne-Belisha, yesterday.

Belisha, you folks, this fellow Belisha is all right. He has got something," he said to a reporter after the interview. "With everybody giving him and his beacons he has got the job started, and when it is done the giving will go on nothing. Anyway it is better to be guyed than ignored."

"These beacons are fine. Call them what you like, call them balloons, pineapples, bananas, anything, but if they save lives that are good. It is time all the civilised countries realise that these road deaths are a terrible disease. We have a cure but we won't use it."

"What is the cure?" he was asked.

"Quite simple," he replied. "Be careful, then you cannot have accidents."

JANUARY 9: A leading article in the *Manchester Guardian* is arguing this week about the prospects of the various football clubs which will on Saturday compete in the third round of the English Cup competition, but there are others who wish that they could be as fortunate in a moment to the West Indies, sunshine and cricket. Most of the players who are opposing the MCC in the first Test match are well known in England, and two of them, Headley and Achong, who played Lancashire crowds each Saturday afternoon in the summer.

Almost everyone, whether he is or is not a cricketer, likes to see the West Indies play cricket for they love the game passionately and eloquently. Who will ever forget the scene at Lord's when Constantine hit 50 runs in 20 minutes, the ecstasy of his friends while he cut and drove the M.C.C. bowling to ribbons and shreds of ribbons, their loud anguish when at last he was bowled when attempting the impossible off one of Bowes's fastest balls? Constantine is not playing in this Test, but he is expected to be available for the other three. He may take no wickets and hit no sixes, but his fielding, a wonder of derring-do, will be enough by itself to fill the spectators with exaltation.

JANUARY 10: Our London Correspondence: Mr. St. John Ervine, whose praise is as generous as his scorn, has been protesting bitterly about the decision to stage no more "as a professional dramatist" at the trifling age of 60. "He could become, if he would, the most notable star of the British stage," Mr. Ervine told the Royal Society of Literature to-day [January 9], and cited great writers of plays, from Sophocles to Mr. Shaw, who did some of their best work when they were over 70. He had no mercy — when did he ever have? — for falsities and failures in the work of the man whom he calls "a great craftsman" and a "born story-teller."

Sew Farsi good

ON Wednesday the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs stages Britain's first play in Farsi, the Iranian tongue. Is anyone likely to understand a word of what is described as "a beautiful and moving plea for the integrity of the individual." I asked the writer and director of *A Cry With Seven Lips*, Iraj Jannatizadeh (38).

The English audience who saw it at a small venue last year had burst into tears, he said. Curiously, the Iranians among them had not. He thought this might be evidence of the power of the human imagination: for the less imaginative, an English synopsis will be available.

It is the true story of a single-minded poet and journalist, Farukhi Yazdi, whose life was personally sewn up by the Governor of Yazd and after many travails he was dispatched in prison in 1940 by an injection of air into his veins.

His experiences were not dissimilar to those of Iraq, whose musical poetry earned him six prison terms at the Shah's pleasure, ranging from three days to four months. He declined to mention his treatment. "Let's say they did a good job of it," he said, "until then the preserve of romantic ballads — as a medium of protest. He thus became the first lyricist to be arrested by Savak, joining a group of poets, writers and activists who were classified as political prisoners."

Six years ago he came to Britain after lighting the blue touch-paper to his last song — about a recent massacre. When the Shah was overthrown, his return was delayed by studies at London University. He considers this fortunate. "We didn't know Khomeini was going to cheat the Iranian revolution. The Shah and Khomeini both belong to the same class."

Iraj, who is married and has two children, is on the dole. He is presenting the play with the Mazrak Theatre Group, which formed 18 months ago. They are all skint young people who are studying here or living in exile," he said. "They are artists who use their ability as a weapon against cruelty and dictatorship and oppression."

He acknowledges the difficulties: no subsidy, no supporting ethnic group and an essentially conservative theatre-going public. The group's logistical and financial problems are such that rehearsals have taken six months, stolen on two nights a week. One member travels from Leeds.

"It makes our job harder. But we have to continue struggling to tell the truth."

People is written by Stuart Waver

All-round support for the best Brest

BREST is best. At least that's what they're saying in Hollywood about Marty Brest, a 33-year-old Brooklyn director whose comedy *Beverly Hills Cop* has cleaned up a record \$84 million in the four weeks since its American release. Starring Eddie Murphy as a Detroit detective investigating a murder in Times Square, the film opens here later this month.

Understandably, Brest wears scepticism as a foundation garment. A wanderer at 28 for his direction of *Going In Style*, he was fired from *WarGames* after three weeks of shooting. By rights he should have vanished down the oubliette of TV commercials.

"Worried about screwing up?" he mused recently for the *Washington Post*. "Deeply. It's a driving, motivating force in my life. My parents were both Eastern European born, and there are values in those lifestyles that I find difficult to get satisfaction for, on that level, in Los Angeles, where they eat their food."

Heaven knows what that meant, but two years later Brest narrowly escaped mastication himself over *WarGames*, whose script had been partly developed by his fiancée, the 41-year-old producer Lisa Weinstein. The project was troubled almost from the start. Brest fired the writers and fought the producers for comic actors to "take the edge off" the thriller plot.

CONCERNED by headlines that break-dancing can cause baldness, and resolved to follow more dignified pursuits, I visited that upright conduit of culture, the British Council, to witness their barely restrained pique at pulling off this month's visit to Poland by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Robert Sykes, the council's director of dance and drama, evoked a younger and truer version of Sir Humphrey Appleby in Yes, Minister — possibly a legacy of having been the council's only secondment in history to the Foreign Office.

At one point, I observed that cultural attaches are nowadays assumed to be spies. "Are they?" he enquired, by a mellifluous Humphreyesque mixture of interest, coyness and faint reproach.

The RSC trip had required

Baukling at the budget, Universal allowed the film to be picked up by United Artists, headed at the time by Paula Weinstein, Lisa's sister. Rumour spread that the studio was looking for a new director before shooting began. The producer pronounced the rushes "fat. Brest was fired by Paula Weinstein, who was herself fired three weeks later."

The hob-nailed boot still hovered. Beverly Hills Cop had been in development for seven years when Paramount turned Brest. Sylvester Stallone, chafed, up as the picture's star, began re-writing the script. When this was rejected by Paramount, Stallone hoofed it. Much of the subsequent re-writing took place between takes, with Eddie Murphy and the cast improvising frequently.

Brest studied film at New York University, where he directed *Hot Dogs For Gaudin*. This was a comedy about an impecunious photographer who blows up the Statue of Liberty in order to corner the market in photographs of the event.

His next film, *Hot Tomatoes*, helped to establish his career. He was offered *Going In Style*, a macabre farce about three elderly men who decide to rob a bank. Brest was called on to direct Art Carney, Lee Strasberg and George Burns called Warner about his new director. "When you said he was young, I didn't think you meant that young," he said. "I've got ties older than him."

Not just treading water

SYKES — Sir Humphreyesque councillor

fast footwork, he explained. "We had been on the look-out for something in Poland for some time. We didn't want to job them off with anything other than the very best."

It had begun with a casual lunch between the respective tour managers of the council and RSC. Realising the avail-

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: King Juan Carlos of Spain, 47; Alfred Brendel, pianist, 54; Frederick Burrenham, author, playwright, 84; Robert Duval, actor, 54; Stella Gibbons, author, 83; Diane Keaton, actress, 39; Mansur Ali Khan (Nawab of Patna), former cricket captain of India, 44; Jan Leeming, BBC TV newsreader, 43; Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, 58; Sarah Lucas, painter, 34; Walter Mondale, former Vice-President of the USA, 57; Maurizio Pollini, pianist, 43.

TOMORROW: Actors: Rowan Atkinson, 30; Sylvia Sims, 51 and Loretta Young, 72; Sacha Distel, singer, 83; Barry John, legendary rugby

footballer, 40; P. J. Kavanagh, poet, novelist, 54; Manny Lopez-Nathan, golfer, 28; Bill Sirs, retired general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, 65; Terry Venables, association footballer turned manager, 42; Clive Woodward, rugby footballer, 29.

MONDAY: Charles Addams, cartoonist, 73; Hunter Davies, author, journalist, broadcaster, 49; Gerald Durrell, zoologist, 60; To Kiernan, former international rugby footballer, 46; Malcolm MacDonald, footballer turned manager, 35; Helen Worth, actress, 34.

TUESDAY: Actors: David Bowie (also rock singer), 38; Graham Chapman, 44; Jose Ferrer, 73; Roy Kinnear, 61; and Ron Moody, 61; Shirley Bassey, singer, 48; Stephen Hawk-

ing, Lucasian professor of mathematics, Cambridge, 43.

WEDNESDAY: Joan Baez, protest singer, 44; Sir Rudolf Bing, of Edinburgh, Glyndebourne and the Met, 83; Simone de Beauvoir, feminist writer, philosopher, 77; Clive Dunn, actor, 63; Graham Fletcher, show jumper, 34; Father Benedict Green, principal, College of the Resurrection, Miffield, 61; Terry Hands, joint artistic director, RSC, 44; David Holbrook, author, fellow and director of English studies, Downing College, Cambridge, 62; Richard Nixon, former President, USA, 72; Ralph Tubbs, architect, 73; David Watt, political commentator, 53.

THURSDAY: George Foreman, boxer, 36; Sir Arthur Gold, president, European Athletic Association, 68; Derek Hammond-Stroud, bari-

tone, 56; Terence Kilmarlin, literary editor, the Observer, 63; Steve Moran, association footballer, 24; Patrick Perrier, rugby footballer, 25; Alan Protheroe, assistant director general, BBC, 51; Johnny Ray, pop singer, 53; Anton Rodgers, actor, 32; Rod Stewart, rock singer, 40; Gailene Ulanova, former Bolshoi prima ballerina, 75.

FRIDAY: Actors: Anna Calder-Marshall, 38; Ann Firbank, 51, and Mervyn Hayes, 50; John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, 57; Alan Bowness, director, Tate Gallery, 57; Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, 42; Barry Flanagan, sculptor, 44; Mick McManus, wrestler, 38; Alan Paton, author, 82; Bryan Robson, footballer, captain, England and Manchester United, 28; Arthur Scargill, president, National Union of Mineworkers, 48.



ability of the RSC's double bill (the *Winter's Tale* and *The Crucible*), the RSC's representative in Poland contacted the British Ambassador, who called at the Ministry of Culture. The council's tour manager and the RSC's administrator whistled off for four hectic days of negotiation, which left Poland

with the lion's share of the bill. All this happened in the space of two weeks, which is my 5 years of doing this job is unprecedented," he said. Unable to resist a plug for the benefit of the Foreign Office accountants, he added: "Without our network to set the scene and

call in experts I don't think some of these things could happen."

But why had it been so long since the last major cultural onslaught on Poland? Had the Foreign Office given a political steer? The time had not been right until Malcolm Rifkind's visit last year, he agreed. "When there are

great events between Britain and other countries in which Britain takes a particular political stance, then the British Council would take advice from the Foreign Office as to the time limits and suitability of cultural events.

Mr Sykes's first overseas posting was to Enugu just as the Biafran war broke out.

He recalls the straining of their water-polo matches between the Diplomats team and the Mercantiles. Two participants were Frederick Forsyth and Connor Cruise O'Brien.

After evacuating 50 VSOs, he got out by canoe in the company of the Deputy High Commissioner, Jim Parker.

Israel gathers its own out of Africa

The Falasha people of Ethiopia have not long been recognised as Jews by the rabbinate in Jerusalem, and it is not certain in what sense they consider themselves to be Jews. They have been separated from the other branches of the diaspora, if separated they were, probably since before the diaspora began. So far as their origins can be traced they go back either to Upper Egypt or to what is now Yemen in southern Arabia, and their stock is among the oldest in Ethiopia. Once accepted, however, they have the very considerable power of the State of Israel behind them. There are no lengths to which Israel will not go to protect its people, as in the raid on Entebbe, or to avenge them, as in the capture of Eichmann, or to be tried for his crimes. Israel makes its foreign policy on the hoof. If a job seems needed, do it now and talk about it later. That seems the only guiding principle, the one, for example, which led to the raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. No other country would have had the nerve, and the total indifference to international niceties, to grab many thousands of people from the mountains of East Africa and fly them to another continent.

It thus becomes almost impertinent to enter into the ethics or political wisdom of what the Israelis have done. The facts speak for themselves, and probably the most important is that as a famine relief operation nothing could be more convincing than to gather up the victims and take them where there is plenty of food. The victims? Not all the victims but the victims who especially qualify under rubrics which their fellow-sufferers, as well as the Falashas themselves, may find hard to understand. But victims who otherwise would have died or suffered in the refugee camps of the Sudan. It is a partial answer, in both senses of that word, to an enormous human problem, and isn't a partial answer better than none?

Unfortunately Israel's impulsive acts are never as free of political complications as it would doubtless wish. The Falashas will have to be given homes. Where? If any of them lands up in a settlement on the West Bank that will be the trade-off between the rescue of the starving from the depths of Africa and the dispossession of people who have prior claim but who happen not to be Jews? It is a little early in the saga to set foot in so treacherous a quagmire, but it won't be long before that has to be done. At one time it was considered sound rhetoric at the UN to equate Zionism with racism. How can that be, when most of the world takes skin colour to be an obvious clue to a person's race? Dark faces are already no rarity in Israel. Yet how can it not be when anyone of Jewish race qualifies for Israeli citizenship?

Israelis had doubts yesterday about the wisdom of announcing Operation Moses before it was complete. A Jewish agency spokesman was anxious to set those doubts at rest and emphasise what the operation was going to cost. It would indeed be a bitter blow to the remaining Falasha refugees if those who helped in secret ceased because the facts became known. But then it is a bitter blow for any, whatever their origin, who continue in the starvation from which the Falashas have been rescued. It seems that there are Jews and there are Ethiopians and the governments which judge themselves responsible must do the best they can for their people. In this respect the Israelis have succeeded dramatically where the Ethiopians, over many years, have miserably failed. This humanitarian triumph need not be soured by political cynicism in Addis Ababa or elsewhere.

How and how not to obtain reform

You do have to hand it to Sir Keith Joseph. There is a masochistic candour about his way of announcing a new policy which sets the Education Secretary apart from his Satchell-inspired colleagues. Only Sir Keith would preface a tough call for more in-service appraisal of teachers' performance, as he did in a speech at Chester yesterday, with the ingenuous observation: "I am told that morale is low, that teachers feel undervalued and underpaid, and that some of my own remarks have contributed to such feelings."

The country's 600,000 teachers today occupy a curious place in the affections of the nation. On the one hand, teachers are still, as they have always been, among the most respected professional groups in society. On the other hand, teachers are one of the principal targets of fashionable right-wing populism. No other group in society is treated at one and the same time with such a contrasting mix of admiration and contempt. So it is hardly surprising that the teachers should look to the Education Secretary for a less schizophrenic attitude, nor that their morale should be extremely sensitive to evidence that Sir Keith is himself fostering this ambivalence.

So when Sir Keith complained yesterday that he is frequently misquoted about the quality of the teaching profession, it is not surprising that he provokes all sorts of suspicions. Not that this means that everything is rosy about teacher performance. But the problem of getting the right teachers teaching the right subjects in the right way is not one that can be solved by stereotyping or caricature. In yesterday's speech, Sir Keith highlighted the need to achieve a better match between teachers' skills, their teaching programmes and the distribution of teachers within the education system. This requires active management by local education authorities and, as Sir Keith stressed, it requires in-service training provision.

Fair enough. But the problem is that the local authorities are already stretched to the limit to provide even a modicum of in-service training under existing cash restraints. Nobody is arguing about the need, which has been pointed up in a series of recent HMI reports. But in-service training for overstretched teachers is falling behind because of problems like providing cover when someone is away. Sir Keith acknowledged that point yesterday, but he is the author of the problem, both in his direct role as Education Secretary and also indirectly, as the patron emeritus of the Government's monetarist policies. For Sir Keith now to say that improvements are conditional upon teachers accepting some form of appraisal system is adding insult to injury. For, in addition to classroom work, teachers are currently doing all sorts of extra work trying to prepare the way for Sir Keith's curriculum reforms. They are facing 6,000 further job losses this year to add to the 20,000 lost since 1979. They are facing fresh squeezes on training. Some local authorities are about to be rate-capped. And there is also the little matter of teachers' pay.

Sir Keith's squeeze is making the educational pips squeak even louder. The teaching unions are girding themselves for a campaign of non-cooperation with the new curriculum reforms. It is hardly surprising that Sir Keith's vague promises yesterday of more investment and value for money cut little ice with the unions. What is needed in any reform is for government to carry the professions with them. Without consent from the teachers, Sir Keith is simply not going to get the exam reform and appraisal systems that he seeks. And it will take more than the Education Secretary's anguished breast-beating to win the goodwill that the school system now so desperately needs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Danger signs for the left in a class analysis

Sir, — One of the charges made by the authors of *Class Politics*, (December 31) against the "New Left" is that the analysis of Thatcherism is nothing more than a smokescreen to legitimise a shift to the right in Labour movement politics.

Although those familiar with the code will recognise that the authors' main targets are the policies of the Congress and Executive Committee of the Communist Party, and its theoretical journal *Marxism Today*, it would be wrong to regard this argument as an "internal" one. Similar controversies are going on within the Labour Party left, the trade unions, CND and the feminist movement. However, being a theoretically based party in ways that others are not it may be that the debate will emerge particularly clearly within the Communist Party.

A great deal depends on the outcome. If, as the pamphlet's authors and some of the Labour left argue, Thatcherism is merely an action replay, albeit a rougher one of previous Tory governments, then this is a concept of Thatcherism which can take in its stride. What is needed is to hang on there, building on Benn's

"\$500,000 votes for socialism" and keep presenting left-wing policies. Before long the natural class consciousness of the working class will reassert itself.

This is a comforting hypothesis; it is also dangerously wrong. For if there has been a significant shift to the right since 1979, if the Tories have been able to gain some populist ground, the left is faced with a correspondingly greater challenge. If we are to rebuild a political majority, elect a Labour government and begin to carry out fundamental change.

In the face of this challenge any tendencies to complacency make more difficult the changes that are needed. Those who deny the concept of Thatcherism will end up being a conservative force in Labour movement politics. Yours faithfully, Dave Cook, 55 Edith Street, London SW9.

Sir, — Of course the class struggle continues — the conflict between a minority who control most of the wealth and power and the majority who don't. But the pattern of the struggle has changed dramatically. In this country, the muscle-power of the

masses is no longer in such high demand — it is often cheaper for industry to buy toil in impoverished nations overseas. Furthermore, modern technology is gradually producing a skilled labour force, which quickly acquires the accoutrements of the middle class, and is liable to identify with "them" and vote Tory.

Acute divisions still exist in society but they no longer fall neatly into the dichotomy of the class struggle. The great struggle today, in this country and around the world, including the socialist nations, is between authoritarian centralism and participant democracy. This struggle is going on in the unions as well as everywhere else, including parliament. The Left's task is to take this conflict fully into account in theory and practice. It embraces, but goes beyond, the class struggle. Yours faithfully, Katherine Du Plat-Taylor, Teddington, Middlesex.

Sir, — Voters who can't afford Labour's wealth of ideology should do something about it. The Labour Party is the one party where the known wishes of the majority of its members are dis-

cussed, voted upon and either accepted or rejected as policy — at their annual Conference.

Of course if this is to reflect the wishes of Labour voters it means that Labour supporters must pay a subscription to the Party and attend the monthly branch meetings to make their views known and record their democratic vote; we might then get so called "moderate" views winning the day, or are the "moderates" so wet that they cannot be bothered to turn out once a month to attend a somewhat routine gathering?

If those who want to see a strong Labour Party, representing the views of a large body of people, stopped moaning, got off their backsides and worked for what they want the Labour Party might be much more realistic and successful. Democracy is not cheap in terms of effort. — Yours sincerely, Katherine Du Plat-Taylor, Teddington, Middlesex.

Sir, — There is a section of the Left which excels in producing a type of literature, termed "academic", which is uninteresting and unintelligible except to the initiated. Unlike scientific literature, which also employs an esoteric vocabu-

lary, it generally conveys very little genuine information. The tract reaffirming the doctrine of class warfare produced by Fine, Harris et al, is a particularly good example of this tendency. Here are two quite representative quotations.

"To be specific, within the Communist Party the newer left is identified as a f(r)action (sic) with the label Eurocommunism... against which opposition is termed Stalinist. To dispute the position of Eurocommunism is of a wide range across any of the label of issues is to court the label of Stalinist and to be defined (negatively) in terms of the approach laid out by Eurocommunism."

"For the newer left, armed with their interpretation of Gramsci, consensus has been achieved through the hegemony of bourgeois ideologies presented as the ideas of the people."

The first of these, which would give a teacher of elementary English nightmares, is a tautology badly dressed in pretentious prose. The second is equally overblown but quite meaningless.

Such pseudoprofundity, with its overtones of orthodoxy and heresy, its appeal to spiritual authority, and its contempt for popular plain

speaking, was produced in large quantities by the mediaeval doctors, and has been light to parodists like Lewis. People nowadays like to think that they are no longer taken in by such things, but optimism in this respect is clearly misplaced when it is found worth reproducing in the daily press. — Yours faithfully, (Dr) Colin Howson, London School of Economics, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method.

Sir, — While accepting some of the arguments of Ben Fine, Laurence Harris, May Mayo, et al (*Guardian*, December 12), in their article concerning the "new left", we feel that they have failed to note the proliferation towards genuine socialism in the Democratic Communist faction.

Furthermore, insufficient weight has been given to a tendency towards predictions of a significant minority of Radical Tory tendencies. Finally, the authors have over-emphasised the significance of actuality in the fundamental tendencies of recent policy. — Yours faithfully, R. G. Meadham, A. P. Montgomery, Bath.

Diminishing the poor

Sir, — The claim that "some 3,690,000 children were in poverty, as defined by the Government, in 1981..." (*Leader*, December 30) is in need of correction. The actual number should be 550,000.

The discrepancy arises from the practice of pressure groups, such as the Family Policy Studies Centre, whose figure of one in four children in poverty was quoted in your headline, using a much higher poverty line than the official supplementary benefit level. The poverty definition used to obtain the figure of one in four families with children living in poverty is the SS scale rates plus 40 per cent.

The families we should concern ourselves with are those in poverty as defined by an income below the SS scale rates (roughly equal to a wage of £5.60 a week for a couple and two children). The answer to poverty is then to ensure that we achieve as high a take-up as possible for the various social security benefits that are designed to relieve poverty. — Yours faithfully, Paul Ashton, University of Liverpool.

Pitching in
Sir, — Your correspondent, W. D. Campbell and A. J. Lane, have rendered valuable service by identifying Matespeak. This is a necessary preliminary to the essential task of combatting it. One of its worst manifestations is the stressing of prepositions where emphasis on another word would be more relevant to the meaning. In Matespeak, for example, the stresses might be placed on "of" and "on" — as well, perhaps, on "be" — in the preceding sentence.

Radio 4, I have noticed this development especially in the speech of "presenters" keen to avoid tedium in their delivery — a very worthy objective but not to be achieved by false values.

The phenomenon appears to me to have not, at least, been attempted to record frequently — to occur more often among the women, but maybe the pitch of the voice makes it more noticeable. Certainly the purpose — to bring voice to speech — is to be applauded, but, alas, the effect is all too often mangled meaning. When broadcast in the World Service, damage to our language may be significant. — Yours faithfully, Ronald R. Smith, Kent.

Sir, — There is more to Matespeak even than A. J. Lane (*Letters*, December 24) implies. The death of the comparative adjective is surely due to the foreboding insistence that it will be "more cloudy" (instead of "cloudier"). This quite soon induced people to start saying "more warm" and "more safe". The Matespeakers not only stress the language wrongly, they impoverish it. — Yours faithfully, Cherry Lavell, London.

Frankly speaking

Sir, — What is the letters page of *The Guardian* to make of the elevation of Frank Chapple to the House of Lords? Here in Edinburgh, the letters pages greeted yet another example of English establishment shenanigans. Thatcherite political patronage knows no shame, obviously, and is clearly unembarrassed by its own brazen bestowal of the rewards of state.

Your regular readers may be forgiven for expecting the recipient of this honour to exhibit not even a hint of self-consciousness, let alone political irony. For someone viewing the ranks of trade unionist virtue, this was the noblest Briton of them all. Thus far seasonal goodwill might extend itself.

But a whole series of questions raised in your columns has received no adequate response from any source. Should these be deemed to evaporate before the inexorable upward progress of the noble lord? Or should the democrats among us continue to hope that someone on the Opposition benches might yet become concerned at observations of far-reaching consequence to us all?

Perhaps your English readership might force some of us north of the border to wonder what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches towards Westminster to be born. Colin Nicholson, Edinburgh.

Force majeure

Sir, — It is strange that there is so little public comment on the "drastic reinterpretation" of the Japanese Constitution mentioned again by Robert Whyman (*January 3*). Japan has been increasing its arms bill by about 7 per cent a year for several years. Its Constitution, which came into force on May 3, 1947, states (Article 9) explicitly: "War and the threat or use of force are forever renounced as a means of settling disputes with other nations. The maintenance of land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be authorised. The right of belligerency of the State will not be recognised."

The United States, which so strongly pressed this pacific Constitution on Japan, itself urges Japan to increase its already powerful armed forces. Did Thatcher, so loud internationally and at home in support of law-and-order, make strong protests to her hosts in Washington during her recent visit? Israel Berkovitch, 25 Wrenfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

One man's bomb is history's regret

Sir, — Churchill's stature may not have been diminished (*Leader* January 2) by the decision to make the H bomb, but it would have been increased immeasurably by a decision not to do so, or by his resignation on the issue. Unlike Aitken, who in August, 1945, opposed the A bomb in the belief that they were only bigger and better HE bombs, Churchill had grasped, at least partially, the implications of the H bomb.

He nevertheless took a political decision to make it, as did Aitken with the A bomb, and thereby lost the opportunity for this country to give a moral lead to the whole world. It was a truly historic moment, when the dictate of morality coincided precisely with the dictate of self-preservation.

That moment passed, and we are now, as Walter



Schwarz, relates (also January 2), at the mercy of a nuclear escalation which has its own momentum and which is no longer in the control of the politicians. But we need not contribute to that escalation by accepting the catch-words and phrases by which it is supposedly justified.

That the deterrent has kept the peace for 40 years is the elementary logical fact

of "post hoc, ergo propter hoc". The "contradiction of relying on a weapon which can never be used except in an act of national suicide" to which your leader refers not only is a contradiction, it is an absurdity, and must be recognised as such. — Yours, Bernard Withers, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Sir, — Now that Churchill

A prime case of drug abuse

Sir, — Mrs Thatcher's proposals to introduce a restricted list of medicines is appalling. It is necessary in medicine to ring the changes with treatment until one finds the alternative drug which best suits the patient, for as yet undiscovered. Our knowledge of drug and disease differences is still relatively primitive, so a range of drugs is still necessary to treat adequately any given disease category.

In addition, there will be no incentive to develop new medicines in her restricted fields of treatment. She will go down in history not as the "Iron Lady" but as the "Medusa" who petrified everything at which she looked. She will, with her restricted list of drugs, have effectively put back medicine to the stone age, from which it is unlikely under her restless gaze ever to emerge.

If she wants to cut the cost of the Health Service, a reasonable objective, then she can teach doctors to prescribe even more economically. They are already the most economic in Europe. The NHS is prepared to pay for any drug. Neither step will interfere with the discovery and development of new improved medicines, nor their availability to patients. — Yours faithfully, (Dr) C. S. Good, Spade Oak Beach, Bourne End, Bucks.

Sir, — I am appalled to find your paper (*January 2*) col-

luding with Mr N. Fowler in perpetuating the misapprehension that his proposals have anything to do with generic substitution of branded drugs. What Mr Fowler is really doing is to strike off a long list of medicines currently available on the NHS, without offering unbranded substitutes. Obviously, what is left will be offered as the generic equivalent, eg, diazepam instead of Valium. No other tranquilliser will be allowed, however.

Somewhat, the Government has clearly managed to convey the impression to the public that there are only some proposals to eliminate the branded products, leaving generic equivalents in their place. Following a general vilification of the pharmaceutical companies in the press, the public have apparently been led to swallow this lie. Many a patient will discover to his cost that the NHS no longer provides the complete service currently available.

In fact, few doctors oppose generic substitution of expensive drugs by their exact equivalent of an assured standard of quality, but most of us do deplore the loss of our freedom to prescribe what we feel is right for the patient, regardless of his ability to pay. In future, some NHS patients will have to settle for second best. One must remember that very few doctors have any financial stake in deciding what they will prescribe. — Yours sincerely, (Dr) Thomas Bloch, Broadway, Worcs.

Miscellany at large

Sir, — In face of a possible charge of irreverence against scientists attempting to prolong human life, Sir Peter Medawar points out (*Futures* December 13) that it was not God, but a poet, who assigned three score years and ten as our lifespan (*Psalms* 90.10).

Indeed, one might well go further and claim that prolongation beyond the present norm directly obeys the Divine will. Has not God himself said of man that "his days shall be a hundred and twenty years"? (*Genesis* 6.3). — Yours sincerely, David Poyner, Harlow, Essex.

Sir, — When Terry Coleman writes about football and refers to the battle of Waterloo having been won on the playing fields of Eton, he must surely have been thinking of the battle of Watford being won on the playing fields of Eton. — Yours faithfully, Herbert Hughes, 2 Cavendish Road, Birkenhead.

Sir, — I note that Mr Dalglish is appointed Member but Mr Fletcher has become an Officer of the Order. I hope that the recipients of the less illustrious awards are aware of the rules and that they are being treated as "other ranks" or at best junior officers. Cricket is played by gentlemen while Mr Dalglish's game of football is played by others. — Yours faithfully, (Dr) A. J. Mutch, Fleetwood, Lancs.

Sir, — Mrs Thatcher, in her New Year address, proclaims that Conservatives "... don't think that politicians are the best people to run businesses." It would be interesting if she disclosed the number of sending me a video cassette of the programme, specially converted to European television standards. I know who I will help next time. — Yours truly, Alan McCombe, 17 Claverton Road, Bristol.

porations or companies. — Yours faithfully, Gareth Edwards, Houghton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire.

Sir, — Now that you have revealed the Government's plans to set up task forces to combat unemployment can you reveal what the task force that was sent to Merseyside actually achieved? Or are we being led up the garden path yet again? — Yours faithfully, David Kennedy, Ilkley, Yorks.

Sir, — May I correct your correspondent, Mr Diamond (*Letters* January 3). Some gentlemen do — but the damned thing falls down half-way through giving the impression that all gentlemen don't. — Yours faithfully, Stephen Westcott, 10 Mersea, Essex.

Sir, — I read (*December 31*) that Mother Theresa believes that the Ethiopian famine is "God's way of teaching the world the lesson of charity — giving us the opportunity to give until it hurts."

How reassuring these words must be to those starving in Ethiopia. They can now die secure in the knowledge that they are part of a benign deity's divine plan to teach the affluent West a lesson. No doubt it makes the whole famine seem worthwhile to them. — Yours faithfully, Tom McGinness, London SE13.

Sir, — When I reflect on the extent to which the selection and presentation of news items on BBC radio and television corresponds to official government thinking, I realise, as 1984 passes, that it is not so much a matter of "Big Brother is watching you," but rather of "You are watching Big Brother." — Yours faithfully, J. G. Biddall, Bradwell, Sheffield.

A COUNTRY DIARY

MYNDD PRESELI: "The best way into Wales is the way you choose, provided that you care." Good advice from Edward Thomas. Here the colours of winter are glowing in the sun or drifting into mist grey. The red ochre of the bracken gleams in the rain and all the earth colours of winter intensify each other. Other ferns luxuriate in green from the start of spring with its daffodil leaf fronds to the delicate Tudor-style fern fronds pretending to be moss. In the wood the ferns, mosses and lichens have taken over for winter. By offering them accommodation the mature

trees look as if they have stopped still in time. Apart from the shining dark holly leaves all is wrapped up in Oakes wear polypody ferns like discreet fancy dress. Going to climb Carningliu passed through lanes with flowers in bloom, but apart from the ivy the show is often streams or mud drenched cattle tracks. Even the Neveen estuary be- fore the clouds snatched it away. The magic of green is stronger in winter. Almost absentmindedly we are aware of the great variety of

shades concealed by summer and the complementary red browns which increase their power. We passed a spring whose sharp green could never be so powerful in summer when the flow is too much opposition from the surrounding greens of heather and trees. The wild orange of the Tremella mesenterica is another winter pleasure. As we arrived home with the dusk the woodcock flew off to the roost and the low glow chased us in wickerwork. For the winter stretches ahead where all vision is lost and all memory dies out. — Yours faithfully, AUDREY INCE.

When TV fails to give the credit where it's due

Sir, — It was with delight that I read the Don's lament by Steve Bruce on your Media Page (*December 31*). For too long we have been used "by" TV and radio researchers.

My most memorable experience was with the BBC. Could they see me rather urgently to get information about Afghanistan? Yes, they could. I gave up an entire morning and even invited them to lunch at my college. They left, taking with them copies of articles, names and addresses, and other detailed information needed for their programme. Three months later I received a cheque for £5. The articles have never been returned. No letter of acknowledgment was ever received, and needless to say, the film credits did not mention the "Oxford connection".

Kvetch is therapeutic, but I prefer zlotys. — Yours sincerely, Schuyler Jones, Lincoln College, University of Oxford.



Steve Bruce about being ripped off by television researchers! But at least his contributions seem to have been used for the purpose he expected.

I recently had the experience of spending time and money producing material for a television company in the subject of the considerable expense of sending me a video cassette of the programme, specially converted to European television standards. I know who I will help next time. — Yours truly, Alan McCombe, 17 Claverton Road, Bristol.

was ashamed when I saw it and was by no means sorry not to receive any credit for it.

On the other hand an American company that I had similarly helped not only used my material fairly and acknowledged my help in the credit titles but even went to the considerable expense of sending me a video cassette of the programme, specially converted to European television standards. I know who I will help next time. — Yours truly, Alan McCombe, 17 Claverton Road, Bristol.

WEEKEND

SPORT

Farewell to Clive the colossus



John Arlott
assesses the
remarkable career
of Clive Hubert
Lloyd of the West
Indies, cricket's
most successful
captain, who
retired this week

THIS WEEK one of world cricket's major figures, physically and in terms of performance, slouched off the scene. Clive Hubert Lloyd of Guyana, Lancashire, and West Indies — Clive to the media, Hubert to his friends — had by then become the most successful Test captain the game has ever known.

Indeed, his record may never be equalled except by another West Indian with perpetually renewed resources of pace bowling. He led West Indies into 74 Tests, of which they won 36, lost only 32, and lost only two out of 18 series. Until a few days ago they had won 47 Tests, lost 40, and drawn 11. Successive Tests had gone 28 undefeated, and had twice won the World Cup.

It had all been done in his apparently contradictory blend of the spectacular and the relaxed calm.

In individual terms he appeared in 110 Tests between 1966-7 and 1984 — just 1985 — only Cowdrey (114) has played in more. In his 478 matches in all first-class cricket between 1962 and this week he scored 30,597 runs with 77 centuries at an average of 40.37, took 114 wickets, made 373 catches, and was responsible for many run-outs.

If the figures of his success are impressive, the man himself has been splendidly handsome, the more so for his unhappy start. As a boy trying to stop two others fighting he was hit in the eye with a ruler; that injury, plus many hours of study in bed, permanently affected his eyesight.

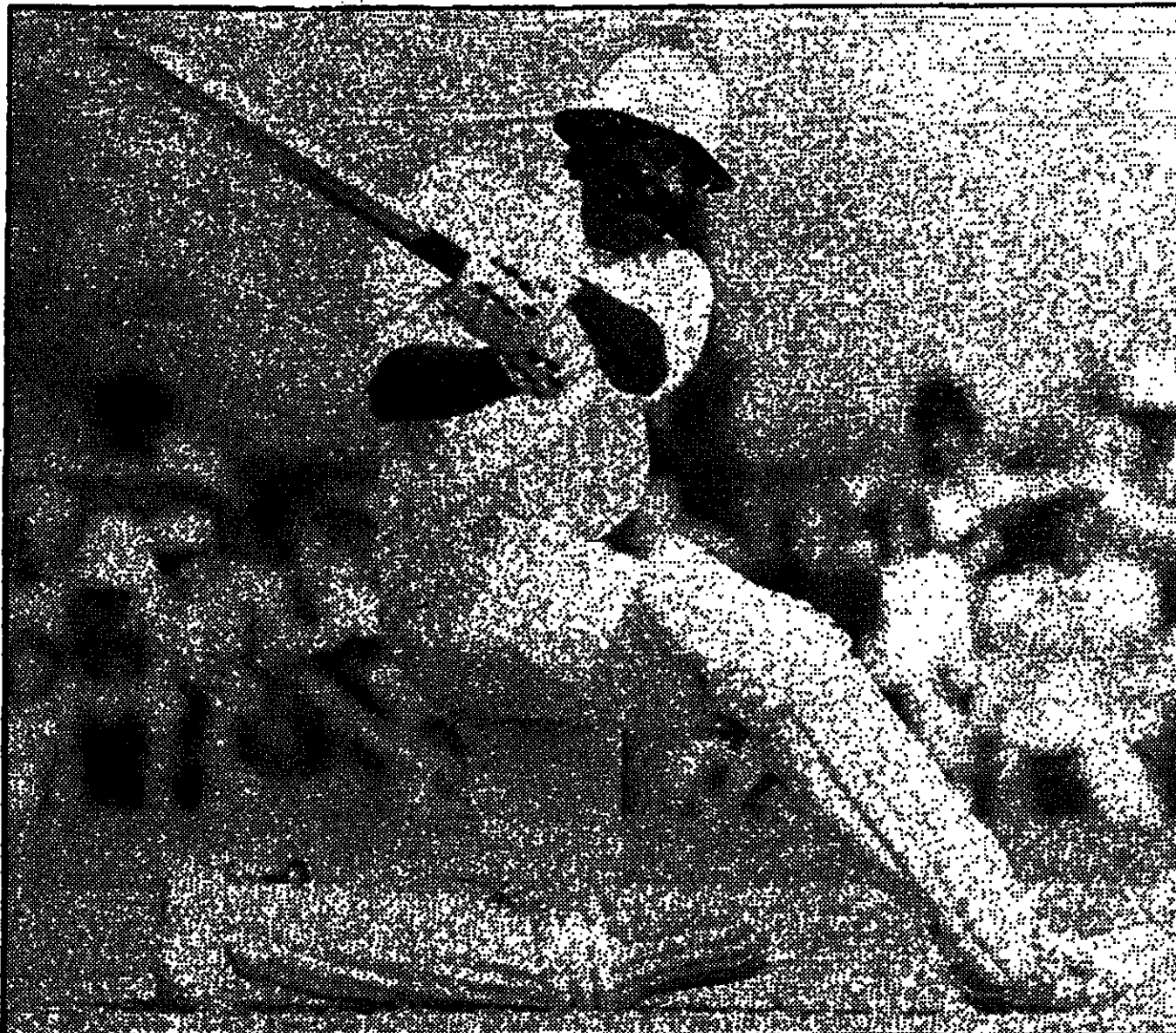
Soon afterwards a leg injury was so badly infected by tetanus as to bring him near death. Remarkably, while he was confined to his bed, he grew fantastically — six inches in a month.

Despite those handicaps his cricketing ability was early apparent. Such is the concentration of talent in West Indies, though, that ability is not enough: it must be rapidly backed by achievement. Chosen for Guyana against Jamaica in 1964, Lloyd scored only 12 and was dropped until 1965 when scores of two and 17 against the Australians cost him his place once more.

Recalled again in the match against Barbados, he scored 0 in the first innings, and there is little doubt that his first-class career was then in jeopardy. In the second innings he made a fine, forcing 107. He did not miss an opportunity again.

When he first broke upon the first-class scene here, he caught the eye by his fielding — perhaps the most effective ever seen at cover point. He had the immense advantage of his height, over 6 ft 4 in, and even at that height, unusually long arms and legs.

His ambled, apparently abstractly in the field, sun hat brim folded up like some amiable Paddington Bear but upon the cue of a stroke played near him he leapt into some great cat-like explosive action. His huge strides made his action immense. In that respect he outstripped the Rhodesian Colin Bland who may have looked more graceful but could not match Lloyd's vast dives, goalkeeper — fashion.



SWEETEST GESTURE ... Lloyd's combination of reach, enormous strength, natural timing and instinctive attacking urge has made him one of the most effective and powerful, controlled hitters the game has known

to cut off a ball that seemed far beyond his reach.

Then he returned with a whip of a mighty right arm, or, of balance, a strikingly powerful and accurate palm push. In fact, by the hypnotic influence of his fielding presence he scared many batsmen not only out of barely possible runs but of some that would have been easy. When leg injuries restricted his speed over the ground he took those vast hands and rapid reflexes into the slips where he proved

equally valuable.

As a batsman he has always used a weighted bat with extra grips on the handle to hit with unusual force. Against Surrey at The Oval he once pulled a straight ball from Robin Jackman from a wicket on the gasholder side of the ground into the yard of Archbishop Tenison's School, on the other side of the Harleyford Road.

Physically his great reach enabled him to drive "on the up" deliveries to which

ordinary men would play back. This combination of reach, enormous strength, natural timing and instinctive attacking urge has made one of the most effective and powerful, controlled hitters the game has known. His 201 for West Indies against Glamorgan in 1976 equalled Gilbert Jessop's record for the fastest double century.

Once he had found his feet his advance was never checked. In his first Test — against India at Bombay —

he made 82 and a match-winning 78 not out. On his first appearance against England he scored 118 at Bridge-town; in his first against Australia 129. He has in his time bowled in three different fashions: slow leg-spin, medium seam-up and, briefly, at quite brisk pace. After his league cricket days, though, he bowled little.

In 1967 he came to England to join Lancashire in the Lancashire League because, he said, "I thought it would improve my batting

technique." On a bleak London night during the following winter he agreed — exciting for Desmond Eager and myself — to join Hampshire. He had, though, developed an affection for Lancashire and its people; and when having been outbid for Garfield Sobers, that county authority approached him, he agreed to join them.

He and Farook Engineer gave an immense fillip to their cricket, especially in the over-limit game with five Gillette Cup wins and two John Player League championships in seven years; and in 1981 he was appointed county captain.

For the 1974-75 series in India, though, he had already been made captain of West Indies in succession to Rohan Kanhai. From that day until he retired this week he captained his country in every match they played except when injured and, briefly, during the dispute with the Packer "World Series".

Captaincy has affected the play of many cricketers but Lloyd took it in his buoyant stride. In his first match as touring captain, he made 163 at Bangalore; in his first series scored 636 runs at 79.50. As Bill Frindall's valuable figures show, in 36 matches as a member of West Indies teams he scored 2,252 runs at 38.67; in 74 as captain, 5,233 at 51.30.

As a keynote of his "captain character" he invariably responded to high challenge, that was apparent in his last innings when in a losing side against Australia his 72 was both the highest and the most convincing innings of his team.

Lloyd's captaincy has been impressively marked by dignity: firm, unflinching discipline; and cool, realistic strategy. Some among his opponents have criticised him for the ruthless use of his mighty battery of fast bowlers. He, in typically relaxed fashion, has indicated that given the sharpest of cricketing weapons, he will employ it and that the matter of intimidatory bowling is one for the decision of umpires.

He retires a well-liked and respected cricketer; a philosopher who managed to play and conduct his matches in a fashion refreshingly free from the acrimony which has infected the cricket of some of his opponents.

D-day for Albion's foot soldiers



Will First Division Leicester City go for a Burton today? Charles Burgess on the Northern Premier League hopefuls

IF FOOTBALLERS do have their brains in their feet then the Northern Premier League part-timers from Burton Albion will have a head start today when they face Leicester City from the First Division in the FA Cup third round at Derby's Baseball Ground. Their manager is a chiroprapist.

Neil Warnock, aged 36, was a full-time professional for 11 years as a forward with eight different clubs in the lower divisions before going in to non-league management. Now, he runs a surgery in Sheffield, where he has treated the feet of players from that club's two clubs as well as doing the rounds of the department stores where a more shapely ankle is normally on view.

In his spare time he has taken Burton, the Staffordshire brewery town, to second place in the NPL and to this third round payday which, according to the club chairman, Bill Royall, an arch-enemy of the club's finances for a year or two.

Albion, who beat Aldershot in the last round, are the typical mixture of men who make up non-league football, and who hit the road to places like Worthington, Horwich Railwayway, and Rhyl to play to win, but for fun and peanuts.

Their captain is a 24-year-old solicitor, Paul Evans, who lives near Sheffield. "Buying a £40,000 house and remembering to send birthday cards is an expensive way of keeping in the team," he joked. He then told the story of the time, having let in a fifth goal, one of the opposition snorted: "Call yourself a solicitor. You haven't even got a defence."

But Burton are serious about their football and today's encounter — Leicester, who have been to the FA Cup final four times, but never won, and although Evans harbours no illusions, "I view the game with some trepidation. You have got to be realistic but in the Cup all the old clichés apply. We will give it all we have got. The last thing we want is to be humiliated but I don't think that will be the case on our big day."

Among the other players are a schoolteacher, a working miner, who, ironically, has the task of marking the striker Linaker, and a finger-print expert and photographer with the police in Derby, Ken Blair. He is no stranger to the Baseball Ground because he was an apprentice there under Brian Clough and Peter Taylor and is often on duty at the ground when not playing for Burton. The game has been switched from Eton Park to Derby to accommodate a crowd expected to exceed 20,000.

Peter Taylor was once the Burton manager and had the honour of sacking a nippy forward named Bob Taylor. The player had decided that football would take second place to cricket and he went on to become one of England's great wicketkeepers.

Should Albion get close to Leicester's goal they will have that 27-year-old Stewart Mell, their top scorer this season with 23 goals, can take advantage. Mell, who played for Doncaster for 31 years and then for Halifax last season, works in a men's boutique aptly named Punch. He turned down a £400-a-week offer to play in Portugal this season. He had been at Burton only a month and was not prepared to drop everything at a day's notice as the Portuguese wanted.

Even with the glamour of First Division opposition Mell remains the true pragmatic footballer. He said: "I know it's a great day for us and I will never forget it but I just want us to win the Northern Premier League."

There will be one certain winner today. The Brewers from Burton and the Foxes from Leicester are both sponsored by the same brewery so Ind Coope will have 22 men wearing their insignia.

A 70-year hitch in the Romanians' romance

AFTER 70 years Romanian rugby union reckons to have made the grade by taking the field at the establishment's very fount of Twickenham today for a first, fully-fledged international match against the UK. It is the game's founding fathers.

Alas, the romance of the occasion is likely to die with the last notes of the pre-match national anthems. I do not think it will be akin to the summer's Sri Lankan fairytales.

If their recent form means anything, the Romanians will be at-odds with butterflies, and butter fingers. It is almost a joke that England start a match as favourites. The prospect is that of two down-card, careworn preliminary fighters being dramatically asked to top the bill with trumpet fanfares, stentorian MCs and all.

It is rotten luck on Romania that, after being patronised by England for decades, the first historic match should come with their game in a trough — blinkered and static, unimaginative and cautiously kick-passy.

At least the two sides look to be well matched. Mind you, the Romanians have never been exactly famed for expansive, care-free running rugby, surprising for the French have been guides and mentors

since the early part of the century when Romanian students, at home from Paris universities, would pick up Sunday sides in the wide central park of Bucharest. The first club was formed in the capital just before the Great War and a few years after it Romania were walloped in their first match against France, still themselves comparative competitive fledglings.

The development was gentle, and nursed affectionately by the French. Since 1960 they have beaten France on a number of occasions and also, of course, had some beating set-ups with Ireland and famously beaten Wales and Scotland.

Through the summer Romania were looking forward with relish to today — till all their confidence of beating the woebegone English was laid to waste early this season when the French gave them an almighty cat-o'-nine-tails. Thereby was defined the exact problem for Romanian rugby — they have to live with what they have, for below their first XV cadre they have always had a shortage of players of even reasonable international calibre.

England's torrid prospects might even be caused by exactly the opposite. They have so many players to choose from that selection of late seems to have been

Frank Keating on today's historic occasion for Romanian Rugby Union — a match against England at Twickenham

done with a list of names and a hatpin, rather like grandma on Grand National morning.

Some of the recent English selectorial permutations defy logic. In the last three matches they have introduced 12 new players. Today there are six more new caps. Before the summer tour of South Africa it was admitted England may get beaten but would come back with a brand new and well-blooded new team. Not one player who toured South Africa will be seen this afternoon.

There are 10 changes from the side that played Australia in November. On the morning of that match I wrote introductory portraits of seven likely lads around whom England had promised to build their future. Only one, Underwood, has survived.

Illustrations of panic, pig headedness and lack of consideration are too many to list in full. Redman and Chilcott were selected against Australia and promptly and humbly dropped, just as Redfern and Bell were after the Presidents' match in October. If they were not good enough in the first place what on earth were the selectors up to?

This latest team includes, among other eccentricities, a totally inexperienced captain, a prop out of position who has played only one first-class game this season and a new lock even more unknown and inexperienced than Redman. I fear for Dooley as I did for young Redman in November.

At Christmas, of all beery times, the selectors farked naming the team till after the South and South West match on Tuesday — and then did not choose the winger Trick who ran the tourists totally ragged. The electrically charged Trick's solitary home international remains being disgracefully and unfairly picked on the wrong wing. One feels the selectors didn't even realise what they had done wrong then and today was the perfect opportunity to show Trick their contrition.

The British game is in the doldrums. Before Christmas even The Times correspondence columns were in lament for

English RU. I liked best this exchange. A Mr Parsons, of Warwickshire, thought the answer lay in selecting more public schoolboys on account of their attitudes. Came the immediate retort from the headmaster of Merchant Taylors' school, the former Oxford blue, DJ Skipper: "We believe it is a game which should be played in the spirit of the laws or not at all. Winning at all costs and gratuitous violence have no part to play."

More and more of our pupils are not prepared to continue playing at senior level, preferring to take exercise in more congenial ways and the game is becoming the poorer for it."

Perhaps, on second thoughts, the Guardian correspondent had it right. In our last batch of letters on the annual wall of English RU, Jim Rivers, of Midsex, wrote: "The only hope for England is to play it all for laughs. It would pack them in if the public address system at Twickenham were turned up full blast to record the laughs at every inept bit of passing, kicking or tackling. The nation would be in fits, and on TV the BBC would not need a commentator but just a tape of that 'laughing policeman' turning it loud at the most hilarious bits."

And the Romanians think they have problems.

The divine Mr Bontrager of Kingston

STEVE BONTRAGER is a practising Christian and evangelist, his number 81 in all-American basketball. He is also just about the most exciting basketball player in the English game.

It is easy to be sceptical of a man so talented and at one with himself. For some he conjures up images of those sickly pseudo-religious moral majority Bible-punchers appealing on American cable television for your soul and your money. As Mark Twain said: "Few of us can stand prosperity, another man's I mean."

But Bontrager's positive attitudes — "nobody in my team does anything wrong, they could just do it better" — and engaging enthusiasm dispel scepticism. That is probably why he has turned around the fortunes of Kingston, previously regarded as a joke, "showboat" team. Bontrager has led them to the top of the National League and on Monday night will lead them out at the Royal Albert Hall in their

Ian Ridley meets the shining light of Monday's national basketball cup final between Kingston and Manchester United

first Cup final, against Manchester United, Warrington as were before being taken over by the football club this week.

The 25-year-old Californian was recruited at the Oral Roberts Christian University in Oklahoma by Athletics in Action, the sporting evangelists. Three years ago he came with them to the Phillips World Invitation Club Championships at Crystal Palace. Kingston liked what they saw.

It they could only offer him around £2,500 for a six-month season. Now they can afford around £15,000 but more attractive to him is a share of the coaching duties, in which direction he sees his future.

"He is a leader," says Malcolm Chamberlain his fellow coach. "He is just the man the club wanted. He runs everything."

Bontrager coaches offence, Chamberlain defence; Bontrager orchestrates from point guard on court, Chamberlain adds his two penn'orth from the bench.

Bontrager on court is a marvellous sight. Beautifully balanced, he dribbles superbly with either hand and shoots with astonishing accuracy and consistency. He averages 42 points and eight assists a game. He hit 66 points against Worthing and beat Hemel Hempstead and Watford with a 60-foot field goal in the last second.

He has been criticised for being too greedy — it is more that he enjoys responsibility and pressure — and for holding back the development of English players. "It's important that I produce winning teams," he says. "I don't have time to develop players. You could say I am stifling Eng-

lish players but if I can get two of them to improve their game I feel I am doing my job." The progress of Martin Clark and Andy Innell bears him out.

Bontrager remains an athlete in action. "I play basketball as a platform for my faith in Christ," he says. "People look up to athletes and I do try to swing the conversation to Christianity." He speaks in churches; he was almost late for a Sunday match at Crystal Palace as he was in church.

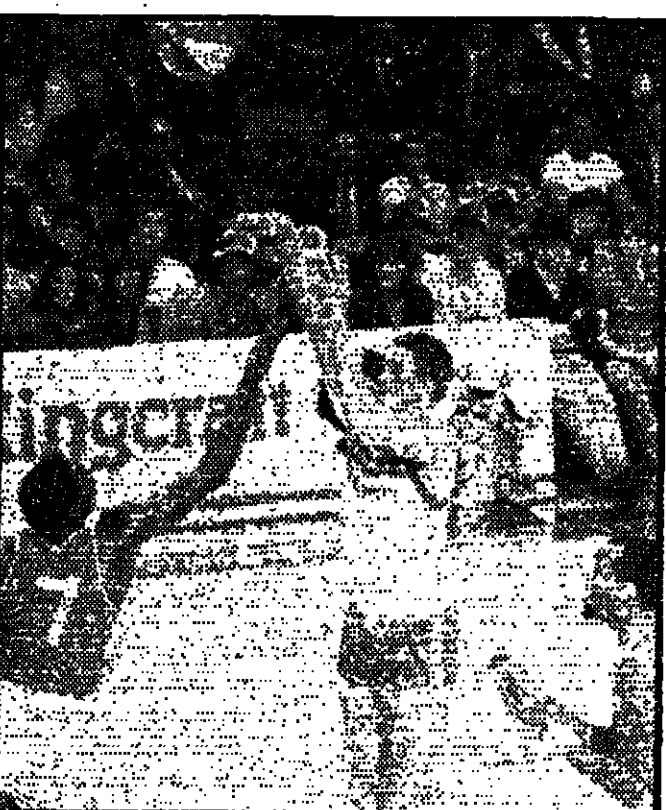
"I know it sounds corny," Bontrager modestly prefaces a lot of remarks like that, but it doesn't — "but I pray before each game. It gives me calm and inner strength."

The centre Dan Davis, also crucial to Kingston's improvement, was also with Athletics in Action. Before the semi-final against Manchester

Giants, Davis, who played with an injured knee, went to Bontrager and said: "The Lord will help me. This one is for the Lord." The power of prayer will again be invoked on Monday.

Manchester United/Warrington are also in their first final. They are in the vanguard of English basketball's development along with Kingston, who nurture hopes of linking with Tottenham Hotspur — the Kingston director, Dennis Roach, is agent for several Spurs players when the North London club build their new sports centre.

Bontrager finds it exciting. "There is talk of the game going downhill, but if the clubs hang in there for two years there will be so many English players coming back from college in the States that I can see this being one of the top leagues outside the NBA (the American professional league)." It would be nice if Bontrager were still here to coach those English players.



JUMPING TO IT ... Steve Bontrager in semi-final action against Manchester Giants. Picture by Tina Richardson

WEEKEND SPORT: THREE

The best moment for a peasant uprising

THE THIRD round of the FA Cup is English football's most significant marker. After this weekend the domestic season starts to turn for home.

In many ways it is also the best round of the competition since it confronts the League's aristocracy with a fair cross-section of the game's proletariat; some of whom have struggled through from the qualifying competition.

The fun lies in seeing which members of the nobility are left lying in the gutter after the peasants have rumbled by. A year ago the solid satin, limp lace and ruffled periwigs belonged to Manchester United who were beautifully mugged at Bournemouth.

By a nice twist of fate Bournemouth have to visit Old Trafford this afternoon where they will find United more determined than they were at Dean Court but still prone to those moments of foolish ebullience which lead to matches being thrown away.

Stapleton is back in the Manchester United attack having missed the New Year defeat against Sheffield Wednesday with a knee injury. Bournemouth will field the side that beat Gillingham.

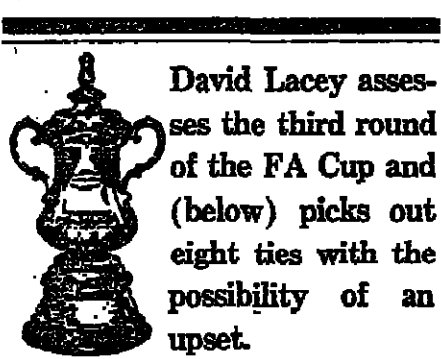
It is the practice, at this stage of the tournament, to search for possible finalists—a daunting task in a competition which quite rightly seems seeding as being alien to the spirit of knockout football. Any sort of assessment, predicting the last eight for instance, is further

complicated by the fact that the Cup holders, Everton, were playing last night. Nevertheless the names of several clubs are naturally uppermost in most people's minds. Take Tottenham Hotspur, the First Division leaders and FA Cup winners in 1981 and 1982.

Those with an eye for such things have already noted that when Spurs won the League and Cup double in 1960-61 they defeated Everton on the opening day of the season and met Charlton Athletic in the third round. Having won at Goodison in August Tottenham now need to beat Charlton at home this afternoon to continue the momentous parallel.

The arrival of Jimmy Hill as a director has given Charlton a new ambience, in the boardroom at any rate, but they will do well to survive against a Spurs team now achieving the correct blend of spirit and sinew with football of a high quality. Huddlestone, taken off with a groin strain, after inspiring Tottenham's second-half recovery against Arsenal on Tuesday, has been passed fit to play and Mabbitt stays at left-back with Hughton on the bench.

After a largely disappointing Christmas and New Year, Arsenal need a Cup run to give their season fresh impetus. Their journey beyond the Maelstrom has not exactly stirred the imagination of their supporters and a quarter of Highbury's ticket allocation for the tie at Hereford has been returned. Yet this



David Lacey assesses the third round of the FA Cup and (below) picks out eight ties with the possibility of an upset.

remains one of the day's most intriguing confrontations.

Steve Williams will play his first full match for Arsenal since joining them from Southampton. He came on as a substitute for the ineffective Nicholas against Tottenham but the Set is given another chance today with Allison starting the match as 12th man.

Don Howe, the Arsenal manager, wants Nicholas to battle like Hoddie which those who did not see last Tuesday's match might construe as an instruction to roar like Lennie the Lion. Howe has also cited Johnny Giles and Billy Bremner as players whose tenacity Nicholas should try to emulate. "When necessary," said Howe, "they'd bite and

they'd fight and not do fancy Dan twists and turns." If Nicholas obeys orders, and wins the game like Jim Baxter as well, it will hardly be worth Hereford taking the field.

Normally, when it comes to discussing FA Cup prospects, Liverpool would be mentioned in the first breath. However their form has been so fitful this season, particularly at Anfield, that a home win against Aston Villa this afternoon cannot be taken for granted.

The again Villa have lost the strength and experience of Evans from the middle of their back four—he will be out for at least three weeks with a broken cheekbone—and the subsequent reorganisation may leave them too ill-equipped to cope with Rush and Dalglish. Hansen is back in Liverpool's defence, Corrans could be recalled to Villa's midfield.

If the eventual Cup winners are to emerge once more from the broad middle band of First Division clubs then there are plenty of candidates this time around. Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest, West Bromwich Albion, Chelsea, Watford, Norwich and Queens Park Rangers all come into this category. Most should survive today and Forest ought to get through tomorrow against a Newcastle side lacking Waddle up front.

Yet Chelsea did go out at home to Wigan Athletic in the third round four years ago and the Third Division side re-

turn to Stamford Bridge unbeaten in 10 matches. Chelsea are expected to rely on the team that beat Forest on Tuesday, with Speedie and Davies both supporting Dixon, the League's leading scorer.

If there is to be a surprise on a London ground today it is more likely to happen at Upton Park where a West Ham side still weighed down by injuries could find a Port Vale team full well wracked with experience more than a handful. Among West Ham's latest casualties is Pike, who missed his first match of the season on Tuesday with a hip injury, but should be able to return with Orr switching from midfield to take the injured Stewart's place at right-back. Walford is recalled at centre-back in place of Gale, out with damaged knee ligaments.

Five Second Division clubs have reached the FA Cup final in the last 12 years and three, Sunderland, Southampton and West Ham, have won the trophy. Of the present crop of Second Division sides few seem to have the qualities necessary to sustain a long Cup run but obviously Oxford United must be considered, along with Birmingham especially if they overcome Norwich today, Blackburn Rovers, who face a tough but far from impossible task at Portsmouth, and Gerry Francis, the former England captain, makes his first appearance for the home team—and Huddersfield, who ought not to lose at Wolverhampton.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Paul Fitzpatrick

Hull aim to keep Grothe on sidelines

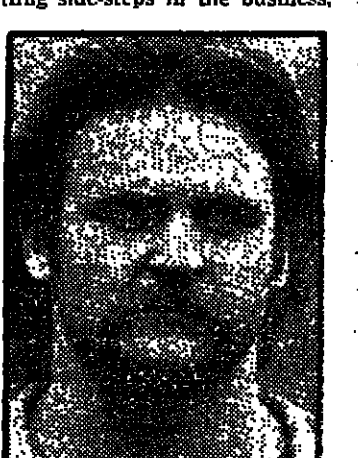
Eric Grothe and Peter Sterling, mugged at playing in the same side, for that outstanding Sydney club Parramatta. Today at Boothferry Park they will be in opposition: as Leeds strive to reach the final of the John Player Special Trophy for the third successive year, Hull and the inexhaustible Sterling will present a formidable barrier.

Hull Kingston Rovers are already in the final, impressive winners over Halifax in the first semi-final the previous week. Whether Hull go through to meet them could depend on how efficiently they prevent the ball going wide to Grothe, a man so deep-chested that Leeds discovered this week that they did not have a winger's shirt ample enough to fit him.

In spite of the shock of being taken from an Australian summer, he plunged into the middle of an English winter. Grothe showed against Leigh at Headingley on Tuesday that all the qualities—particularly his exceptional strength that made him a Kangaroos' tour—have not waned. Three tries, one of which only he could have scored, represented a promising start to his Leeds career.

Arthur Bunting, Hull's coach, is too smart an operator to minimise Grothe's dangers. What he did say yesterday was that if the ball does not reach Grothe then he cannot do any damage, which might mean that John Holmes, the great playmaker of the Leeds side, could be in for an afternoon of harassment. The stand-off's legs might be a little slower these days but his wits are as sharp as ever, his consummate passing skills undiminished. It was Holmes who sent in Grothe for his first try on Tuesday, an alliance that the Leeds followers will hope to see more of.

But Leeds are not going in to this match with only one winger. Neil Hunt, who possesses one of the most startling side-steps in the business,



GROTHE: Exceptionally strong

refused to be overshadowed by Grothe on Tuesday, collected his tries for himself and clearly a highly dangerous runner given the slightest encouragement. Hull would overlook him at their peril.

The battle forward should be particularly interesting because both packs have had to be reorganised, with Hull weakened by the absence of Crooks and Leeds by the injury to Dickinson, whose place will be taken by the less powerful but more mobile Moorby.

Hull could also be without another Parramatta player, John Muggleton, and Gary Kemble whose ankle and knee injuries respectively were giving cause for concern yesterday. Missing, too, for Hull is the game's finest young centre, Gary Schofield, although there is nothing makeshift about a three-quarter line of Evans, Ah Kioi, Leuluai and O'Hara. There will be a pitch inspection at 11.0 am.

The struggle for the Slalom Lager Championship meanwhile continues without any club enjoying a decisive advantage at the top where four sides have 22 points. The situation could, however, alter tomorrow when St Helens meet Hull Kingston Rovers in what promises to be one of the outstanding clashes of the season so far.

Billy Bynon, the St Helens coach, is reported to be disillusioned by the indulgence of some of his players over the holiday period—when Saints lost two successive games—and has banned drinking 48 hours before a match. Whether such abstinence will do the trick remains to be seen. It will need more than just a clear head top-stop Rovers in their current mood.

Wigan, for whom Brett Kennen (yet another Parramatta man) is producing some sublime skills will be in search of their tenth successive victory at Halifax where Ford replaces the injured Holden at scrum half. Steve Davies, signed from Blackpool, will play against Widnes in a Leigh side who have lost seven successive matches and are now serious candidates for relegation.

Fulham are gradually bringing their squad up to strength and yesterday signed on loan John Stockley, a winger, whose list price is a hefty £80,000, a brother of Trevor Stockley, who is at present in dispute with the club.

Patrick Barclay
Leeds 0, Everton 2

Young ones get a lesson

EVERTON kept their grip on the FA Cup with a thoroughly professional and disciplined performance last night at Elland Road. It was their first victory on the ground for more than 30 years.

In a match of few chances, Leeds, who are on the fringes of the Second Division promotion race, tried everything they knew to break down Howard Kendall's side's defence, but never really looked capable of replying to a penalty by Steve Sheedy within five minutes of half-time.

Despite the bitter cold and live television, a healthy crowd of about 25,000 turned up to see how Eddie Gray, a young and talented striker, would fare against the halfhearted holders. Leeds, backed by a wall of raucous support, began enthusiastically and would have taken the lead in the first minute but for a marvellous save by Southall, who dived to his left to cleverly clipped free kick by Sheridan, after McCuskey had been fouled by Stevens.

The 33-year-old Lorimer, who brought Southall to his knees with a long-range drive of power and a shade too much precision, was busily involved as Leeds maintained the pressure. Wright, edging ahead, at Elland Road in a thrilling contest, before a night-time tangle into the arms of the grateful goalkeeper.

Everton's defence showed signs of anxiety when Stevens, attempting to find Southall, instead conceded a corner which was headed wildly by hooked Sheridan's drive over the crossbar.

Everton worked the ball out of defence neatly on the hard pitch, with Reid always available, but found most of their attacks snuffed out by the eager home tackling. Mostly they were reduced to high, speculative balls, one of which Gray headed down to Bracewell, who found himself unmarked as he dashed across the goal.

Hughes, deputising for the veteran Harvey, collected a trundler from Sharp after the ball had been cleared but he was unable to make a serious save before he was beaten from the penalty spot in the 40th minute.

Leeds' players were having trouble controlling the ball as it came off the wet, frosty pitch, and as Linington, under pressure from Sharp, attempted to come to terms with Stevens' long throw, he hit his own goal several yards inside the area.

The referee's attention was attracted by a signal from a linesman with a closer view and upon seeing it, Mr Richardson pointed unhesitatingly to the spot, from where Sharp drove his 26th goal of the season. Ruding, the captain of the host with a full-blooded blast while Hughes dived to the right.

Leeds threw themselves into attack after the interval, but Everton never lost concentration and all too often the home side found themselves passing sideways, in the hope, usually vain, of finding space around the penalty area.

Kenny, who took off McCuskey after 60 minutes, introduced the youngster Gavin Hastings, who had been in the Everton squad since 1954, to the fray. Hastings, a 17-year-old, was a natural, and he was not the only one to show his talent.

Leeds' players, who were leading 1-0, were not the only ones to show their talent. In the 80th minute, a 17-year-old, was a natural, and he was not the only one to show his talent.



SHARP: a penalty for his twentieth goal of the season

John Rodda meets today's businesslike middle-distance man

Hutchings making haste

ATHLETICS

WHEN Tim Hutchings washes off the sweat and mud after another cross-country victory in all probability this afternoon at Mullusk, Northern Ireland, he will revert smoothly to his alter ego as one of the new business executives of British athletics.

Behind the high fliers of Coe, Ovett, Cram and Thompson there is another group who can now contemplate finishing their competitive days in a financially sound state, and Hutchings, with barely a medal of significance to his name at the moment, is among them.

At 26 he has taken a long time to reach the top echelon of the right moment with an approach that is going to disarm some of his contemporaries. He has a frank, laid-back attitude towards the fact that he is earning a living through his talent and that by the time he retires in his mid-thirties there will be a considerable fund on which to base the next stage of his life.

"By then I may have accrued no more than my contemporaries at Loughborough University, have done, in their professions by the time they are 35," is Hutchings' most realistic view, which takes account of the unhappy history of injury which held him back in his early years.

Only when he took the silver medal in the world cross-country championship in New York last year and finished fourth in the Olympic

5,000 metres in the very smart time of 30min 11sec did his potential begin to dawn on the people who matter.

When you link those performances with the fact that at the age of 19 he ran 3min 57sec for a mile, the material becomes a little more exciting. That mile time and some of the wasted years through injury can be laid at the door of Britain's most explosive and eccentric coach, Frank Horwill.

Hutchings is the first athlete to have started and stayed with the Horwill coaching philosophy and achieved success. He agrees that Horwill works his runners too hard too young, but that is now changing as a result of the Hutchings experience. It is as valuable to British middle-distance running as the emergence of British coaches is barely surpassed.

If Horwill never wavered in his belief in Hutchings' talent, another man gambled on it. Mel Batty, former international cross-country runner and now UK director of the American running shoe company, Brooks, offered Hutchings an endorsement contract. "From running the odd race in which I'd get a couple of hundred pounds to go into my training fund I suddenly had the prospect of £30,000 plus."

That meant he was able to start buying a house with his brother solicitor, and buy a reliable car to take him to and from training. "I have doing parents and could have gone on living at home, saving every penny that was coming in."

but this gave me the opportunity to set up on my own," he said.

He now has time for two training sessions a day and for a more meticulous approach to preparation. He can, too, keep in close touch with Horwill, whose presence in Los Angeles to motivate him would have been valuable.

"I realise that with a little more application I could have taken the bronze medal. On paper there is not much difference between a third and fourth place, but without an Olympic medal I didn't get a \$15,000 bonus for my shoe contract. I will not be offered so much for races this year and I have not been 'in' for many functions," he said.

BRISTOL R v. IPSWICH

STATISTICALLY Ipswich look vulnerable. Bristol Rovers have lost only once at Eastville this season and that was to Swindon in the Milk Cup after they had won the away leg of their first round tie 5-1. In the second round they held Arsenal to 1-1 having lost 4-0 at Highbury. Rovers' ability to score from a variety of positions will test the Ipswich defence in general and Cooper's goalkeeping in particular. However Osman and Butcher did more than enough in the Milk Cup to nullify the prolific Oxford United partnership of Hamilton and Aldridge. Ipswich's greater problem is likely to be found in attack which has failed to score in eight of its last 11 matches.

HEREFORD v. ARSENAL

ARSENAL'S recent away form, one win and six defeats, and the parsimony of the Hereford defence suggests that the First Division team will be quite happy with a replay. But, as Newcastle, and West Ham have discovered, cup-ties at Edgar Street can be lost when least expected. Can the Fourth Division side reproduce the passion of the early seventies? On Paper John Newman's team is capable of causing problems for an Arsenal defence still bereft of the injured Sansom. Harvey, once on the playing staff at Highbury, made only three League appearances for Arsenal but is favoured by tradition to score against his former club.

BURTON A v. LEICESTER

Burton have a stronger pedigree than either Leatherhead, who ran Leicester close in a fourth round tie at Filbert Street in 1975 or Harlow, who knocked them out in a third round replay in 1980. The Northern Premier League side's impressive home record loses some pressure with the tie going on at Derby, but the pressure will still be on a Leicester team whose form this season has fluctuated wildly. A striker of Linaker's speed and skill could put Burton firmly into perspective. The non-League team's best chance surely lies in containing their opponents' fluent attack in the hope of catching their sometimes ponderous defence on the break.

FULHAM v. SHEFF WED

THE New Year's Day results have made this tie even more intriguing. While Sheffield Wednesday were beating Manchester United at Old Trafford, Fulham achieved a remarkable recovery at Fratton Park where they drew 4-4 with Portsmouth after being four down at half-time. At the end of October Fulham went out of the Milk Cup to Wednesday, losing a third round tie narrowly 3-2 at Hillsborough. In the Second Division last season both encounters between the clubs ended 1-1. All of which suggests that Wednesday's confident return to the First Division, where they have beaten the four leading sides, will mean little today.

CARLISLE v. DAGENHAM

DAGENHAM know their way to Wembley rather better than Carlisle, having reached two FA Trophy finals. Against that Bob Stokoe, the Carlisle manager, was in charge of Albion in Sunderland when they won the FA Cup so memorably in 1973. Stokoe's present team are busily effective going forward but at times their gauche defence is a lot to Stokoe's agility in goal. Having already eliminated League opposition in Swindon and Peterborough, Dagenham, who had never gone beyond the second round in the League season, must fancy their chances of making further progress. Indeed this looks just the sort of tie which produces the right result for the non-League team.

TELFORD v. TRAFORD CITY

LAST season Telford disposed of Stockport and Northampton and routed Rochdale 4-1 at Spotland before going out of the FA Cup 3-2 at Derby. This time they have knocked out Lincoln and won 4-1 at Preston—a result that even now still seems barely credible. Bradford City, who hold a five-point lead at the top of the Third Division, should prove a much tougher proposition for the Gola League side but they are without their player-manager Trevor Cherry, and Telford should be used to this sort of confrontation by now, especially with the supporting Williams restored to their attack.

DONCASTER v. QPR

SO FAR Queen's Park Rangers have redeemed a disappointing season in the First Division by reaching the quarter-finals of the Milk Cup. In the second round they defeated York City 4-3 away and 4-1 at home, which does not suggest that they are about to go out of the FA Cup to Doncaster who are level on points with York in the middle of the Third Division. Nevertheless QPR do strange things at times, witness their UEFA Cup collapse in Belgrade, and now that Frank Sibley, in charge of the team following the dismissal of Alan Mullery, has introduced the defence to the sweeper system opponents are less likely to fall offside. Fenwick and Gregory should know too much for Doncaster.

ORIENT v. WBA

ORIENT are just one of a growing number of clubs who have failed to remain in the rest of the football world that they still exist. Gates at Brisbane Road have dwindled to below 2,500, the team are going to have to struggle to stay out of the Football League, a victory over West Bromwich Albion might be just the fillip they need. Johnny Giles's side is experiencing a win-or-lose-or-some season and look like finishing respectably in the division. Unspectacularly placed in the First Division. With their raw-boned defence, from which the least compromising component, Robertson, will probably be missing today, the team's attack, Albion could go far in the Cup this time.

Girardelli stands in different class

SKIING

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg cast an aura of invincibility over the men's World Cup yesterday with a slalom victory by the huge margin of 2.45 seconds.

Girardelli's fourth win this season—his second in slalom—lifted him to the top of the overall and slalom standings and confirmed he is ready to inherit the mantle of the skier he admires most, Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden.

It was fitting that Stenmark should return to something like his best form to finish third behind Florian Beck of West Germany. But Stenmark's coach, Hermann Nogler, acknowledged afterwards that the Swede does not think he can beat Girardelli, who at 21 is seven years younger.

Some 10 days after today's race, which pits him against such rivals as Dave Clarke, Martin Gostner and Eamonn Martin, he will be off to New Zealand for three months' training and a couple of races in Australia. Then he palms a "short fuse" season on the track, picking some races at fairly late notice, and probably starting off with the Grand Prix events in the United States.

It will come as a disappointment to cross-country supporters that Hutchings' winner of the National Championship two years ago, will not compete at the English Championship or the world event in Lisbon, but they do not figure in the 1985 calendar of this athletic businessman.

on the road rather than Wimbledon Common to get the sort of shape needed for part of the 1985 racing programme—the American road circuit.

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A dawdle for Reardon

SNOOKER

Ray Reardon last night became the first player to reach the quarter-finals of the £200,000 Mercantile Credit Classic in Warrington when he defeated the London-based Dubliner Eugene Hughes by a comfortable 5-1 margin.

Their uninspiring encounter took three hours to complete and Reardon was later critical of the growing tendency towards slow play which, he claims, is in danger of ruining the game.

"It's not just Eugene," said Reardon. "It is happening throughout snooker, especially among the younger players, and the game does not need it. It might even be me, because it is the only way I know to keep my concentration."

Evening became a father for the second time when his wife presented him with a 7lb 10oz daughter, was seldom able to counter the consistent safety play of the experienced Welshman.

Cricket

Itinerary shuffle

An official of the National Cricket Association said yesterday that there was nothing sinister in the revised itinerary of England's under-19 tour to the West Indies which starts next week under the management of Bob Willis, the former England captain.

The party contains four players who have played or coached in South Africa, and it seems significant that no matches would be played in Guyana, the setting for the Robin Jackman affair four years ago—Trinidad or Antigua, countries that might be expected to take a dim view of such South Africa links.

Was this not a gloomy pointer, too, to next year when England will tour the West Indies with a party which seems sure to contain players with South Africa connections?

"It is always the case," said the spokesman, "that the host country decides where the visitors will play. A number of things, including Shell Shield games, had to be taken into consideration."

Swimming

SHORT-COURSE MEETING (Fayetteville, Ark.)—First round (US 11 not counted). 50 yd: 1. J. P. Bennett (Cal), 4:18.50; 2. J. P. Bennett (Cal), 4:18.50; 3. J. P. Bennett (Cal), 4:18.50.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. Cleveland 100, Washington 85; Milwaukee 111, Portland 87; San Antonio 110, Dallas 115; Phoenix 122, Seattle 89; Indiana 112, Golden State 111.

Golf

SPALDING TOURNAMENT (Pebble Beach, Calif.)—First round (US 11 not counted). 36 holes: 1. J. P. Bennett (Cal), 4:18.50; 2. J. P. Bennett (Cal), 4:18.50; 3. J. P. Bennett (Cal), 4:18.50.

Ice Hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE. Vancouver 6, New Jersey 4; Hartford 6, Detroit 2; St. Louis 5, Montreal 2; Dallas 4, Los Angeles 3.

RESULTS

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Leeds (3) 0, Everton (2) 2

Talks between Russia and the United States start next week in Geneva. CHRIS DONNELLY outlines the making of a Soviet soldier and, below MARY McAULEY meets the students who don't know very much about either Stalin or life in the West.

The Russian revolution soldiers on

SOVIET students are the educational and intellectual elite of their society. Soviet servicemen are not. Apart from ill-health attendance at university offers the only real chance of avoiding conscription, and so the Soviet conscript is very much the average 18-21 year old male going through a rather uncomfortable two, or three years.

Whereas both the Soviet student and the British soldier are where they are because they choose to be, the Soviet conscript soldier is not. Virtually all the officer corps (20 per cent of total military strength) are regular career officers. About 5 per cent of military strength are regular NCOs, while the remaining 75 per cent are conscripts, junior NCOs or private soldiers.

In contrast with an all-regular army, therefore, there are marked differences of attitude between career NCOs and officers and conscript soldiers. The latter live a life of extreme austerity which 30 years ago was little different than life as a civilian, but which with today's improving living standards now comes as a shock to the young Soviet man.

The conscript earns only about £3 per month pocket money, very little leave, if any, and a boring and barely adequate diet. On induction he will have his head shaved in the time honoured Russian tradition, and in his first months he is subjected to considerable bullying and brutalising by older conscripts. Virtually every hour of his day will be occupied, either with military training, political lectures, cleaning his equipment or doing repetitive tasks designed to keep him occupied.

If this sounds like a recipe for social disaster, it is worth remembering that many of these features could have been found in the British Army during conscription 30 years ago, albeit in a somewhat less extreme form. Furthermore, the Soviet citizen does not expect to control his own destiny like his British counterpart, nor would he welcome it if given the opportunity. Whereas the English word "education" comes from the Latin "educare", the Russian word for education, "obrazovanie", comes from "obraz", a mould.

The educational system under strict Communist Party control seeks to mould the individual into the "correct" pattern, rather than to allow him to develop his own way. Nor is there any realistic way that the Soviet draftee can express his opposition to the draft. Soviet society is geared to pressuring the young men to accept his lot for two years as a duty to the nation.

To counteract the depressing effect that brutal discipline and poor military living standards have on morale and willingness to work, there are three very positive factors. The first is the close sense of belonging that military service entails. The Russian has no word for privacy, and has a psychological need for communal life which the army fills in good measure.

Secondly, he has a tremendous patriotic fervour and love of the motherland that goes much deeper than jingoism. Military service appeals to this sentiment in a very basic way.

Thirdly, military service is bound up in an immense amount of ritual and official adulation. The soldier cannot help but feel a pride when he takes part in the massed military parades or field exercises, or attends the regular ceremonies at the many war memorials.

Nor are those limited to serving conscripts. The Kotlissomol (Young Communist League) and the vast military youth training organisation Doszast provide 18-18-year-old uniformed guards for war memorials and military cemeteries. To lay her bridal wreath on the local tomb of the unknown soldier is nowadays the finishing touch that a Soviet girl expects to put to her fashionable wedding. The army is kept in the public eye, and this rubs off on the soldier as pride. Moreover, the USSR is only a superpower on account of its military might, the soldier knows this and this too gives him pride.

To talk of the "average" soldier is difficult. There is a world of difference between spending two years as a guard on an anti-aircraft missile site and two years as a secretary in a Headquarters in Armenia.

Also, all the nationalities in the USSR are evenly represented in the army, each platoon of 20-30 men being a mixture of races, usually three or four. Normally there is a predominance of Russians, but there may be 13 nationalities represented. About a third of the conscripts are non-Slav.

It has always been the function of the army, in Tsarist and Soviet Russia alike, to Russify the non-Russians, teach them the basis of the Russian language and culture and, incidentally, bring them to accept Russian ethnic dominance. It is policy now.

Moreover, unlike a Soviet student who is encouraged to live at home, a Soviet soldier will generally be posted as far away from home as possible. These two factors prevent the formation of the kind of regimental or local loyalties that are encouraged in the British Army. Instead, loyalties are directed to the motherland, the Communist Party, and, in battle, as in any army, to one's immediate comrades.

The inculcation of these loyalties is formalised by constant political indoctrination and propaganda words which have no unpleasant connotations in Russian — conducted by a corps of political officers, and a widespread Communist Party and Komsomol organisation. This subjects the soldier to at least seven hours of political instruction every week, much of which falls on deaf, bored ears.

The soldier may not believe that Communism represents the ideal which the system depicts it as, but he is generally convinced that capitalism is an unmitigated evil and that, were it not for Soviet military might, the capitalist world would have long ago destroyed his country. He cannot travel abroad freely to test his hypotheses. In the absence of personal experience or of an alternative viewpoint from a free country, what is he to believe if not the official propaganda picture?



The uniform is better than the pay. Russian soldiers in Leningrad.

Picture by Denis Thorpe

back several centuries in Russian tradition, and is compounded by modern Marxist views.

Every Soviet soldier knows that Western military technology is superior to his own. He knows that Western industry and Western armies are more efficient, and that Western soldiers are better trained. Whether this is true or not, the Soviet soldier believes it to be true, and what rumours percolate about British performance in the Falklands or Israeli performance in the Bekaa Valley feed this belief.

In Afghanistan, these attitudes combine to give the Soviet soldier a particular view of events. On the one hand he regards the Afghans as a primitive people, who should be grateful for Soviet assistance in setting up a modern state. He is particularly offended by Afghan lack of gratitude for Soviet help, such as drilling new wells and improving roads.

He is convinced that Mujahadin resistance is dependent on military aid from the West, yet more evidence of capitalist wars to undermine the Soviet state.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the USSR can maintain its military activity there indefinitely. It is not like Vietnam was to the US. There is no free press in the USSR to report the horrors of modern war, there is no single co-ordinated resistance, and there is no effective military training or external supplier of modern arms to the Afghans as the North Vietnamese and Vietcong had. Moreover, Vietnam did not have a contiguous border with the US. But after five years of what is now officially admitted to be a war, all is not well with the Soviet soldier in Afghanistan.

There is considerable evidence that the Soviet soldier does not like having to kill women and children and old men when a village is "punished" (i.e. wiped out) for harbouring arms or ammunition for the guerrillas. On the other hand, the army is unhappy with the lack of reporting on its "successes" in Afghanistan. The Soviet public simply does not know what is going on there.

The heroism and self-sacrifice of the Soviet soldier is not being recognised. Too many soldiers are dying without being honoured. Too many girls are writing "Dear John" letters to their boyfriends in the army, unaware of the effect this has on the soldier's morale. Only in the past three months has there been any real increase

in information about the soldier in Afghanistan available to the Soviet people.

Whilst the conscript may wish to avoid service in Afghanistan at all costs, the young Soviet officer must regard service there as an opportunity to practise at least some of the things he has trained for. He is a professional career soldier, very well trained and with a high degree of technical skill. He is also possessed of a much higher degree of sophistication than ever before.

Today's young officer comes from the "upper strata of a one class society." His status in society is very similar to that of his Tsarist predecessor. In contrast with the post-revolutionary period, the ritual, uniforms, ranks, military organisations and so on of the modern Soviet army bear a remarkable resemblance to those of the Tsarist Army.

Most of all, the officer corps is no longer simply an elite. It is a hereditary elite—there is almost certainly a greater degree of heredity than there now is in the British officer corps.

The Soviet officer corps is now the greatest support for the leadership of the Communist Party. The officer corps has become the epitome of the establishment; and it has grown to this as its self-confidence in its weapons and tactics vis-à-vis the West has grown. It is not an unbreakable confidence, but this is the first time since the Revolution that it has been there at all.

To be sure, there are problems in the officer corps, particularly with the young officers. There are social problems caused by the high divorce rate and by the poor accommodation for those serving abroad, there is frustration at being prevented from showing initiative by the old guard. However, these are really evidence of increasing expectations and developing talents rather than of increasing dissatisfaction.

Either way, the old-fashioned picture of the Soviet soldier as an uneducated but brave and hardy peasant is now particularly misleading. The young officer is well trained, politically loyal and militarily quite sophisticated. He is more like an American than a Russian. He reflects an increasingly sophisticated urban civilian population. Both are as far removed from their grandfathers who fought Hitler as they are from their Western counterparts. How they would perform in a modern European war remains unknown.

Chris Donnelly is a specialist in Soviet military affairs.

Why all's quiet on campus for the consumer generation

THE STUDENTS who gather on the embankment opposite Leningrad University, waiting for the crowded buses and trolley-buses, look very like their British counterparts. The men, in particular, with their jeans, trainers, donkey jackets and shabby briefcases, could be on any British campus. The women are smarter, in a conventional sense — tricot, sweaters, duff coats, sweaters, skirts rather than trousers but jeans are there too, even leg-warmers. Foreign carrier bags are everywhere.

There are differences, though. First, there are no punks, no dyed hair or shaved heads, no leather. The Soviet students are "neater and tidier too, and the women look even younger, more fresh-faced, more girlish than British students. Perhaps this seems so because they behave differently.

The women tend to cluster in twos and threes around the radiators, arms linked. They chatter about clothes, a film, a forthcoming examination, two of them walk up and down the long corridor, arms entwined, going over the details of a recent sad love affair and sighing over the untrustworthy and selfish nature of men.

The posters which line the walls have changed less than student dress. There is no strident compelling political posters, rival political and religious bookstalls, statements of no-confidence in the university administration or the Chernenko government, and calls to action to support a range of different causes. Even the sophisticated Moscow or Leningrad student would find the exuberance and iconoclasm of British student culture, the atmosphere of confrontation, of what they would consider "rudeness" or "bad manners", rather disturbing. A gay bookstall or announcement of a lesbian society meeting would shock and dismay them.

Although much better dressed, they eat no better than their parents did in the student canteens. Their grants have gone up from 25 to 40 roubles a month over the past 20 years, but this has barely kept up with the rise in the cost of living.

Now, as then, students survive with help from their parents, food parcels from their Siberian homes, and taking odd jobs. But even so, towards the end of the month bread, frankfurters, and hot soups with sugar in it will substitute for a cafeteria meal.

Those who live at home fare much better — fussed over and fed by their mother or grandmother. Many of them, particularly those from the Russian northern cities, are the only child in the family and, as such, have received the full attention of

their parents and grandparents, parents who often have been anxious and determined that Volodya or Masha should get a higher education and hence a good job.

Science facilities remain a popular choice, for both men and women. A science degree opens up a range of employment opportunities — in industry, in research — and Moscow and Leningrad can absorb all their graduating scientists. They need not fear the prospect of a posting to the Far North to small provincial town or village as a school teacher.

That means the loss of the right to live in Moscow or Leningrad and it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to return. Foreign language institutes attract large numbers of applicants — a degree in languages will lead to a trip abroad and will give access to foreign literature and culture — but recently the law faculties and the institute offering openings in trade and catering have become much more sought after.

The law students are attracted by the idea of becoming criminal investigators and detectives or — and this is more telling — commercial lawyers. Commercial law — the legal regulation of inter-enterprise relationships — is a growth area.

The availability of provisions and consumer goods, and the demand for them: to be manager of the meat section in a large store, or of a restaurant, to be in charge of hospital catering, means that the individual is automatically in a highly advantageous position to start trading, gaining access to otherwise unobtainable goods and services, and hence is able to maintain a good lifestyle.

Although attitudes to study vary as widely among Soviet students as among British — some work very hard, many get by with a minimum of reading and intellectual commitment (since Andropov's time, attendance at lectures has been monitored and absent students are asked to provide explanations), a Soviet student views the future very differently. A reasonable job in the chosen line of specialisation is guaranteed.

Two considerations seem to preoccupy today's students: one, that the job he is doing is an interesting one, the other, that the job provide a decent salary. The feeling that the job should be one that will sustain interest — as opposed to one of dull routine or one for which the incumbent is unsuited — is not simply seen as desirable but almost as a right. That is to put it too strongly: after all it is the knowledge that there are too many boring

jobs in a situation where a job is guaranteed that in part prompts such concerns. But, whatever the reason, the student of today sees his or her personal interest in the job as of key importance. And this therefore can lead to a more realistic attitude to a chosen career after a couple of years, switching from engineering to art school, from physics to philosophy (this time without a grant) because after all, they found they were not interested in being an engineer or a physicist.

This sense of personal professionalism, though, is accompanied by a highly-developed sense of material self-interest. On being interviewed for a job, the graduate will ask "how much do you pay?" and "how long will it take me to get my kandidatski?" (a post-graduate qualification, which automatically brings a salary increase).

This openly-stated concern with money shocks some of their parents but it is part of a wider view of the world and their place in it which is, in some ways, very similar to that of their counterparts in Britain. Even in the Soviet Union the rising standard of living and availability of a range of consumer goods plus the security and stability of the past twenty years has produced a generation which takes comfort for granted and knows it is possible to think in terms of an apartment, possibly a car, smart clothes, a stereo.

In any society there are the mavericks and you will find them among the Soviet students too — just as you will find the committed Komsomol activists, who take the attendance register, organise the subcommittee (the cleaning-up of the hostels and yards), run the student council, organise political meetings and write references for job applicants). These two "types" seem to change little as generations pass: the "outsider" of today and the "political activist" of today seem to carry on a tradition. But the great majority of students, who are neither of these, do seem to produce their own generational culture.

The students of today were born and brought up under Brezhnev, they have never even heard of Khrushchev's "peace with honour" would reach the stage of Communism by 1980, let alone read his slightly utopian party programme. Most of them know nothing of the literary and political ideas that have shaped the Soviet mind.

The 20th Party Congress where Khrushchev denounced Stalin means nothing to them. For them past history consists of the Revolution (as distant as the American War of Independence to American school boys) and the Great Patriotic War.

Although the War is much nearer and does still have a resonance, it is now wrapped in the kind of mythological shroud as is the First World War for us.

They are highly critical of the government's domestic policies, but they take the economy work properly, produce good quality, high technology goods and a decent supply of food.

On foreign policy they are less critical of their government's policies. They tend to be more like American students in this respect. This does not mean that they approve of everything — the war in Afghanistan is hardly popular. But on the nuclear issue, they are convinced that the West is the aggressive element.

On seeing Greenham Common demonstrations (a popular Soviet TV news item), they ask: "Is that really happening or is it our propaganda?" They react with a sceptical view of Soviet reporting of western events. But they also ask: "how do the women know where the nuclear sites are? Is that kind of information really available?"

This paucity of information makes it difficult for Soviet students to analyse their own society. Given the constraints, they manage pretty well.

Mary McAuley is senior lecturer in government at the University of Essex.

ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

OVER THE past 10 days I have consumed more poetry than Christmas pudding, and I am not sure which of the two delicacies has done me the most harm. If I had digested all the Proudes or Munroes or the "General condition might have been greatly improved. But I have only nibbled at anthologies — Yorkshire verse, war poetry, modern verse. I have washed them down with a Thomas Hardy collection and used — Peter Ackroyd's "T. S. Eliot as a sort of cookery book" which I can't say how a really high class chef lays out his menu. All these little snacks have, of course, ruined the main meals. I have been distracted

to the point of debilitation. Real reading (not to mention the drafts of several January speeches) has been constantly interrupted.

Not that I am against anthologies in their place — which is, ideally, the lavatory. They are just right for a moment of reading relaxation which cannot be prolonged. When there is only just enough time to open a book at random and read straight on, anthologies are just the thing. There is no need to hunt, at the beginning, for the place where last night's reading ended or, at the end, to turn down the corner of the page. The problem with anthologies arises when they get above them, and come out of the closet. Then they interfere with continuous prose. I have been diverted by the seductive claims of anthologies ever since Father Christmas rhymed and recited his way down the chimney.

Half of the pleasure of anthologies is in reading

well-loved and well-known poems — often repeating them not as they appear on the printed page but as they were misremembered in memory 40 years before. The other half is divided between emotions which are sacred and profane. The pleasure of discovering an enjoyable, but previously unknown, verse is the purest sort of joy. The self-righteous indignation that bursts out from the discovery that a poem which ought to have been included has been omitted, is really no more than conceit. But the conviction that the reader knows better than the editor is immensely enjoyable — no matter how unjustified.

One day last week (in suitable surroundings) I opened, at random, the Oxford Book of War Poetry. Charles Sorley's "All the hills and valleys long / Earth is bursting into song" failed to please. But on the next page was A. E. Houseman's Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries, known to me for four decades as Epitaph for an

Army of Mercenaries. I learned that poem before I even possessed a box of lead soldiers and I know that its genius lies in its paradox and the heroically prosaic notion that

What God abandoned these defended
And saved the sum of things for pay.

But the contradiction only half works. The last taste is glory strong and undiluted. It ought to be laced with the bitter regret that comes from war and the waste of war. These days I am anxious to avoid being tempted by the charms of the unreasonably romantic. So I quickly turned the page.

Printed on the back of the Houseman poem was Another Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries by High MacDiarmid — a poem which I had never read before and about which I know nothing. Its title, and its opening couplet suggest that it was written in direct rebuttal of the idea that once

upon a time the sky was held suspended on the shoulders of a contemptible little army of professional soldiers

It is a God-damned lie to say that these
Saved, or knew anything worth any man's pride.

It was not the technical shortcomings of Mr MacDiarmid's poem which made me turn back to Houseman, although the reader does have to work very hard to make Another Epitaph ring like real poetry inside the head. My complaint was about the content. If the subject is war and pity of war, then there ought to be some pity in the poetry. Selective compassion is not enough.

The greatness and glory of the real war poets is their ability to reveal the wicked waste of war, but — at the same time — properly portray the humble heroism of the men whose lives were so wickedly wasted. Whoever dies on either side of the barbed wire, somebody has

to mourn. When Siegfried Sassoon takes home the news that a "cold-footed useless swine" who "panicked down the trench" is dead, he is careful to preserve the grieving mother's illusions. The bitterness is reserved for the purveyors of firebreath, the bishop who promises redemption in the trenches

Were none of us the same the boys reply.
For George lost both his legs, and Bill's stoneblind
Our Jim's shot through the lungs and like to die.
And Bert's gone syphilitic.
Isaac Rosenberg's soldiers returning to base camp and "a little safe sleep", are momentarily diverted by the songs of the lark. Robert Graves devotes a whole poem to the importance of not apportioning blame for mutiny and murder in the trenches. Wilfred Owen promises, in place of passing bells, "the tenderness of patient minds." The scorn and bitterness are reserved for the "scarlet majors at the base" who "send giving sol-

diers up the line to death" and the cheery-old-cove generals who wipe out whole battalions with their incompetent plans of attack.

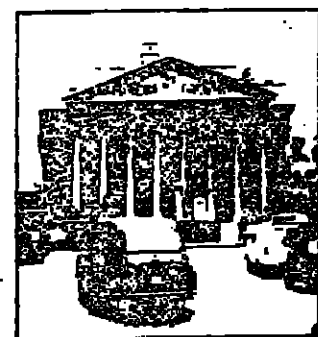
I am in passionate favour of war poems denouncing war — and exhorting the generals and the politicians. I am equally enthusiastic for the men in the trenches — for we all think of war poetry as primarily the product of the First Great War to end all wars — being portrayed as they really were, not as "winners into clean-scented leaping" but real men who occasionally lost their nerve and sometimes caught syphilis. But it is important to feel sorry for them. Love and compassion are very closely related emotions. To write

They were professional murderers and they took
Their blood money and impious risks and died

is not just a failure of compassion. It is a failure of understanding, and is not, therefore, poetry.

David Rose

It's only fair that P & O's deal with European Ferries should be scrutinised



NOTEBOOK

Edited by Peter Rodgers

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading told European Ferries that it could not bid for Sealink, the now privatised British Rail ferry company. It warned P&O, too, that it would be referred to the Monopolies Commission if it tried a bid. Last year, the City witnessed months of wrangling, and sometimes

whingeing, over the ethics and economics of these prohibitions on the build up of new monopolies on the English Channel.

Yesterday, P&O sold its cross channel business to Euroferries, which will have more than half the short crossing trade, and both companies were confident that the deal would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Presumably they consulted the OFT, which offers private advice on the chances of referral before deals become public — a procedure encouraged by ministers as a way of saving both sides the trouble. The Department of Trade insists that the deal will still be scrutinised and that a decision on referral — one way or another — has yet to be made.

Given everything that happened last year, there is a very strong argument for a reference, if only to clear the air and spell out why one set of combinations in the Channel trade is wrong and another right.

It would also disarm any critics who might snipe at the special position of P&O chairman Sir Jeffrey Sterling as adviser to Trade and Industry Secretary Norman Tebbit.

Brief encounter

THE POUND note has not yet gone the way of the ten shilling note, although its chances of survival are fading. Yesterday Tory MP Marcus Fox joined in the campaign started by Portals, the Bank of England's paper makers, to save the note by printing it on more durable paper. He had been astonished on a recent visit to the Bank to discover that it had been experimenting with more durable paper for notes of £5 and upwards Mr Fox said. "If they can do this for the higher bank notes, surely they can do it for the £1 note. I think the Treasury deliberately kept quiet about this improvement, which would lengthen the life of the £1 note, because it would weaken their

argument that the short life of the note made it too expensive to continue to produce."

However, the Bank in response, shifted the grounds of the argument, and said that the paper was not at fault, it was simply that the pound was now small change and treated so badly that even the maximum specification paper would not give much of a gain in the life of the note, now that it is kept screwed up in pockets instead of in wallets.

This was too much for Portals, which is 28 per cent owned by the Bank and therefore does not criticise the Old Lady lightly. Marketing manager Michael Wilkinson said "The pound note would last twice as long in the same condition with the new, higher specification paper."

The Bank is right of course, that the pound note is being treated as small change. But the real argument against the end of the £1 note is the big gap that opens up between the £1 coin and the £5 note. When

the 10 shilling note was phased out it gave way to a note only twice, not five times, as large. It is the number of coins in the pocket which will cause the irritation over the next few years.

However, the Treasury and the Bank are standing firm, and the public has no comeback, because the notes will no longer be legal tender after the end of the year. It was all so very different in the US, where it is not possible to declare an old note illegal. As a result, Americans' dislike of the dollar coin killed it off, and the dollar bill continues to circulate to this day and for the moment, at least, it remains worth less than a pound note.

Heavy metal

TWO MONTHS AGO Robin Plumbidge, chairman of Gold Fields of South Africa, which has some of the best quality gold deposits in the world, jetted into London and confidently predicted that investors would "get a

feel" for what is going to happen to the gold price in the new year. This week the gold price fell below the psychologically important \$300 per ounce level for the first time in two and half years, and dealers are predicting average prices as low as \$250 and \$270 for gold this year.

When Mr Plumbidge made his now apparently far sighted comment on the market, the word was that gold prices would go the other way. It was assumed that gold would shake out of the \$340 plateau where it had been stuck for much of 1984 once the US Presidential election was out of the way. Market men were looking for a fall in the dollar and interest rates to spark enthusiasm for gold, which it was argued was at the low point in the price cycle.

Events of the past week have promoted a drastic rethink. The dollar has moved from strength to strength, mopping up surplus investment funds. Continuing upward pressure on interest rates also weakens the case for investing in gold. It

makes more sense to leave your money in the bank instead.

In fact, all the so-called "fundamentals" which affect the price of gold look pretty grim at the moment. Traditionally, investors take gold as a hedge against inflation. But the world's leading economies (with the exception of South Africa) have been remarkably successful in keeping inflation in check. Relatively high inflation in South Africa (13.4 per cent) which dominates world gold production, is also bad news since it increases mining costs.

Gold sales have also been hit by the fact that it is priced in dollars throughout the world. So, while gold is plunging, the dollar price of the price of gold in other currencies (including sterling) has reached all-time high peaks, which act as a further dampener on sales.

With investor and jewellery demand so weak the result is that nearly 90 per cent of all the gold produced in the world at the

moment is being mopped up by industry, which shows a sign of significantly increasing its output in the next year or so. The supply side news is not good. World production is forecast to increase by about 7 per cent this year as new investments come on stream. Third World oil producers have also been pushing gold on to the market to make up for shortfalls in revenue caused by the collapse of oil prices.

And if the news for the hard metal is bad, gold shares look an even worse bet. Shares in the sector are rated at about twice the level of two and a half years ago when the gold price last hit \$300 per ounce.

What happens next? The experts say that gold will hover around \$300 for a short period (maybe days or weeks), then fall like a stone to the \$250-\$270 level. Any weakening of the dollar, signs of increased inflation, or signs of world conflict will upset their forecasts once again. They have been wrong before.

Loss-maker's five ships bought for £12.5m

P & O's Channel arm goes to EuroFerries

By Andrew Cornelius

European Ferries, the Townsend Thoresen company, will carry more than half the 20 million passengers who cross the Channel to France each year after agreeing the £12.5 million takeover of the Anglo-French ferry business of P&O, one of its fiercest rivals.

The deal means that EuroFerries overtakes British Ferries — the former Sealink (UK) business now owned by Sea Containers — as the biggest operator in the cross-Channel ferry trade.

EuroFerries is buying three P&O ships which operate on the Dover/Boulogne route and two ships on the Portsmouth/Le Havre route. An announcement is promised "within days" by EuroFerries on its plans for the P&O business, which employs 1,100 people.

One immediate impact of the deal is that P&O's decision to switch its Le Havre service from Southampton to Portsmouth because of the long-run-

ning industrial dispute between Southampton dockers and port management, will not be reversed. EuroFerries said that it would consolidate its Le Havre service with that of P&O at Portsmouth.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O, said that the sale of its loss-making ferry business was "the best answer, particularly from the point of view of employees."

He said that P&O had ruled out investing the huge sums needed to re-equip its cross-Channel fleet, which is much older than the rival fleets run by EuroFerries and Sea Containers. The alternative to the deal was to close the business, Sir Jeffrey added.

The deal was welcomed in the City where P&O shares were marked up by 5p to 314p.

Both sides said that the deal was irrevocable and appeared confident that it would not be referred by the Office of Fair Trading for investigation by the Monopolies Commission. However, the Department of Trade and Industry said that the merger would be investigated by the OFT in the usual way and could still be looked at by the Commission.

In 1981 the Monopolies Commission refused to allow EuroFerries to take over Sealink UK, because the merger would operate against the public interest. Last year P&O also decided not to bid for Sealink when it was privatised because the government became a monopolies investigation was threatened. "If we had succeeded in getting the Sealink business our strategy might have been different," Sir Jeffrey said.

650 jobs axed in blackspot areas

By Andrew Cornelius

MORE THAN 650 redundancies were announced yesterday in the UK engineering industry by Trafalgar House, the shipping and construction group, and Babcock Power, the power generation equipment manufacturer.

Trafalgar is making more than 300 employees redundant at two foundries in the North-east, one of the worst unemployment blackspots in the country. Babcock is axing 350 jobs at its Renfrew boiler manufacturing plant, near Glasgow, which employs 3,000 people.

The grim news came as the Government is expressing cautious optimism about the slowdown in the rate of job losses in industry.

Trafalgar is closing its Redpath Engineering foundry at Midlethorpe in April with the loss of 200 jobs. Discussions will begin with the workforce there immediately, but local Labour MP, Stuart Bell, has already launched talks aimed at keeping the foundry open until the summer.

A further 90 jobs are to go at Trafalgar's Cleveland Bridge and Engineering foundry in Darlington, which employs 1,000 people.

Trafalgar blamed the closure of the Redpath foundry on the drop in demand for castings made at the factory, which was bought from the British Steel Corporation in 1982, as part of the deal whereby Trafalgar acquired the Redpath offshore engineering business.

The outlook at Darlington was necessary because a number of contracts have recently been completed there, Trafalgar said. Babcock said that the Renfrew redundancies were necessary because of a lack of power station orders at the factory, which makes boilers for coal, gas, oil-fired and nuclear power stations.

Hobson's choice...

By Geoffrey Gibbs

A SIMMERING boardroom row at a small Cheltenham based company will spill over into the High Court next week when the company's founder intends to contest his suspension as a director.

George Nicholson who brought his Hobson company to the United Securities Market only six months ago, says he has been suspended as a director for two months following a row over the direction of the business.

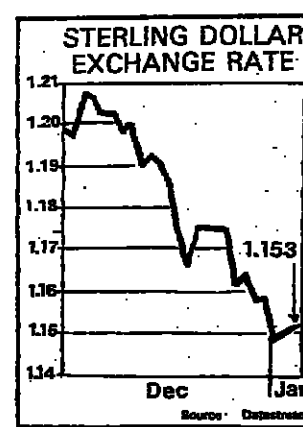
The boardroom dispute blew up towards the end of last year when the company chairman Rodney Harrett — now the sole executive director — is said to have opposed plans to sell Hobson's process for manufacturing extruded die for the aluminium industry to a Japanese company on a royalty basis.

The report by a mild-mannered civil servant has blown the lid off the biggest financial scandal in Malaysia's history.

Lawyers believe it could take years for police in Kuala Lumpur and in Hong Kong to unravel the web of corruption and financial mismanagement enmeshing former employees of state-owned Bank Bumiputra.

The report by a special three-man inquiry team under Auditor-General Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin was released on Wednesday by the Finance Ministry. It gave Malaysians their first account of a two-year-old loan scandal which has embarrassed the administration of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and shaken

Shares recover as pound rises



By our City Staff

Sterling recovered some of its lost ground against the dollar yesterday, although money markets were still at a level where the clearing banks would justify a rise in base rates.

After Thursday's sudden fall in share prices on the Stock Exchange, dealers took heart from the pound's regained poise. But City opinion is still deeply divided over whether a rise in interest rates is likely next week after Tuesday's money supply figures.

The Bank of England has been pointing out that the figures will be too distorted to

provide an adequate guide because of British Telecom, and the authorities maintain that monetary growth is still under control. Last week, however, they argued that it would take minus figures to stop any rise.

However, it now looks as if the money figures may allow more room for fine judgement than many City analysts feared, and talk late yesterday of an alarming rise could well be wide of the mark. Any rise in base rates, if it occurs, would certainly not be enough to trigger an increase in mortgage rates.

In quiet trading on the for-

ign exchanges the pound, which had slumped to a record low of \$1.1530 on Wednesday, improved by nearly 1p against the dollar. With the dollar under the shadow of heavy central bank intervention the pound edged up 43 points to close at \$1.1538. Against a basket of currencies sterling's effective index nudged up 0.1 to 72.9.

With the easing of rates in the money markets, the pound also gained against both the German mark and the French franc.

The FT 30-share index recovered all the lost ground to close up 12.3 at 941.0.

Comfort grudgingly backs bid

By Margaret Pagano

Shareholders in Comfort Hotels were enlightened officially yesterday with the reasons behind the Comfort board's grudging decision to accept the £57 million bid from the Ladbroke Group.

Comfort's chairman, Mr Henry Edwards, told shareholders that while the board considers the offer realistic it still does not believe it fully reflects the company's excellent growth prospects. But Mr Edwards added that, in the absence of a higher offer from another suitable party, the board could

only recommend the offer to shareholders. Comfort directors have accepted for their shareholdings.

On the news, Comfort's shares slipped 10p to 90p which, with Ladbroke shares, unchanged at 256p, values the share exchange offer at 91p. The cash offer is for 85p. Just before the first bid from Ladbroke, Comfort shares traded at 49p.

Sir Edwards also forecasts a year of substantial growth for 1985 due to the recent high level of bookings, benefits coming through from extensive modernisation at several ho-

tels, and the opening of the first three Comfort Lodges later this year.

But Comfort's reservations persist over Ladbroke's condition in the bid that it drop its offer for Prince of Wales Hotels. The PoW deal, said Mr Edwards, would have given Comfort a link with Quality Inns, one of the world's biggest hotel groups.

Mr Edwards, chairman of Ladbroke, commented: "I am pleased to note the directors themselves intend to accept in respect of their shareholdings and are reminding shareholders to accept by next Friday."

Watchdog to vet political gifts

A cross-party political group is to draw up a code of conduct for political donations by companies and it may recommend that directors consult their shareholders before making political donations.

The working party has been set up by the Constitutional Reform Centre and the Hansard Society, and it will be chaired by former Labour Trade Secretary Edmund Dell, who is now active in SDP politics. The main thrust will be an examination of the Trade Union Act 1984 which requires unions to ballot their members to establish a political fund.

A political fund in all parties have said could be seen as one-sided if there is no similar requirement on companies. The working party emphasised yesterday that it represented all party interests. The other members are Christopher Chataway, former Tory minis-

ter and vice-chairman of Orion Royal Bank, John Ellard, a partner in Linklater & Paine, the solicitors, and Peter Smith, public affairs manager of the engineering and mining equipment firm Powell Duffryn.

The Alliance parties do however worry about the failure of many companies to seek the support of shareholders before making political donations, most of which go to the Conservative Party — although there is now a trickle of financial support from companies for the SDP.

One suggestion is that companies should establish separate political funds in the same way as trade unions and that they should explain in public their policies on political donations. Companies may have to report the donations after the event, in their annual reports, without prior consultation with shareholders.

Renault's 1984 losses likely to be £630m

The French state-owned car maker Renault, which saw its sales slump in France last year, expects to report 1984 losses of over seven billion francs (£630 million) a spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman declined to comment on reports that last year's losses would reach nine billion francs but government sources conceded it could be that high.

Renault group chairman Bernard Hanon announced in October that Renault was 3.6 billion francs in the red in the first half of 1984, more than double the 1.53 billion franc losses in the whole of 1983.

His hopes then that improved sales in the second half of the year would brighten up the 1984 accounts proved unfounded. Sales in fact slumped further, the spokesman said.

In unusually frank criticism of a nationalised group, Industry Minister Edith Cresson said in a magazine interview that Renault management had failed until recently to mobilise its workforce in a bid to turn around the situation.

This criticism, clearly aimed at Mr Hanon, has fuelled speculation in Paris that the chairman's position is in danger if Renault's performance does not perk up this year. — Reuters.

Loan scandal shakes Malaysia

A report by a mild-mannered civil servant has blown the lid off the biggest financial scandal in Malaysia's history.

Lawyers believe it could take years for police in Kuala Lumpur and in Hong Kong to unravel the web of corruption and financial mismanagement enmeshing former employees of state-owned Bank Bumiputra.

The report by a special three-man inquiry team under Auditor-General Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin was released on Wednesday by the Finance Ministry. It gave Malaysians their first account of a two-year-old loan scandal which has embarrassed the administration of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and shaken

the country's leading Malay financial institution.

The inquiry has surprised even hardened critics by the doggedness which pursued the bank's massive bad loans to Hong Kong property developers.

The bank's Hong Kong subsidiary, Bumiputra Malaysia Finance Ltd (BMF), paid \$1 billion between 1979 and 1983 in bad loans to developers such as the now-defunct Carrian group and its former chief George Tan.

Carrian quickly made and as quickly lost a fortune on Hong Kong's property market. Tan was charged in Hong Kong last May with conspiracy to defraud in connection with the collapse of his empire in 1983. The committee accused six

BMF executives of corruption and called on the authorities here and in Hong Kong to begin investigations with the aim of charging them in court.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Attorney-General's office said: "When we've got the report, we'll be in a position to consider what action is appropriate."

The committee's report alleged that the six executives and some of their relatives received payments directly or indirectly from Tan and companies in his Carrian group.

The whereabouts of all six BMF executives are not known. "The Government now has no choice but to prosecute them and bring them to it," — Reuters.

court," said Chandra Muzaffer, leader of the political reform group Aliran.

"The question is whether the blame stops at bank officials or whether there are political figures who were party to the bank's decisions."

The scandal has provided valuable ammunition for the opposition, particularly the Pan Islamic party (PAS), the main challenger for the Malay vote, the power-base of Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation.

Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, who released the report, has called the scandal a national shame and has promised "to get to the bottom of it." — Reuters.

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COMPANY BRIEFING

New Court makes ground

New Court Natural Resources, the small but thriving oil and gas producer that has concentrated on onshore production in the United States has more than held its ground in the face of falling prices. If the oil price continues to fall, the company's development of an oil field in the Gulf of Mexico should begin to contribute to the company's bottom line. Under pressure, it is not as active as in the higher-cost offshore fields.

In the first half of the year to March 31, the dollar's strength was more significant than increased output in raising turnover by a fifth to £2.2 million. The cost of developing the Avon field by water replacement methods was nevertheless heavy and after much higher depreciation and special charges of £300,000, half as much again as the previous figure, pre-tax profit for the six months was the odd £50,000 down at £77,000.

The reduction in interest income to £104,000 also fully accounted for the profit fall. Cautious expansion is being pursued in other areas of the 125-acre exploration, depending on the outcome of the higher risk-to-reward ratio as oil prices drop.

Although earnings were down at the interim stage, they should not be for short of last year's at £1.50. At 50p, the shares are not looking too far ahead.

Confident move...

Shares of Barrat Development jumped 10p to close at 50p yesterday on speculation that an American buyer was interested in taking over Barrat's California housing and property business. Barrat shares have jumped from 35p to a top of 50p in the past two years after a collapse in house sales following two critical television programmes on the company's building and sales methods.

heavy engineering group has been in the red for 4 years and the market hopes that the new appointees to the board will stop the rot.

John Briggs, who takes over the chair from Denis Fahey—now group president—is also chairman of 'AI' Industrial Products and Sangers and is bringing in Bryan Flinn, Sangers' chief executive of Boulton.

The appointments took effect on January 1 and were announced yesterday along with news of a rise in losses from £787,000 to £1.3 million in the year to June 30. Turnover dropped from £24.5 million to £22.8 million.

Shares in Mercury Securities rose sharply yesterday by 25p to 45p largely due to heavy demand after a couple of strong recommendations from brokers. Market pundits believe that Mercury provides an umbrella for S. G. Warburg, Roths & Pimans, Akroyd & Smith and Hullees—is well placed to benefit after the Stock Exchange's 'big bang'.

In short...

Shares of Whittington Engineering bounded 30p to 108p yesterday on news that Seaford Investments had bought 122,000 shares from a nominee of M. & G. and now has a 25.84 per cent stake. Seaford is an investment vehicle for a group of South African investors and a bid for the rest of Whittington is not thought likely.

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Prices stage a rally as rates fears subside

THE MARKETS

Stock markets staged a useful rally yesterday as fears of an imminent hike in interest rates subsided for the time being. There were still a few cautious souls among money market dealers who were waiting anxiously for money supply figures from the US and next Tuesday's indications for the UK December money growth.

A few brave buyers returned to gilts and equities, with speculative counters back in favour among the secondary issues. Leading shares finished between 2p and 10p higher, with P&O particularly strong at 315p, up 11p, on hopes that the company will soon merge with Sterling Guarantee. Just before the close P&O announced that it had sold its Anglo-French Ferry Services to European Ferries for £12.5 million, E.F. hardened 11p to 127p.

Breweries were back in demand after Thursday's shake-out. The sudden resignation of the brewing director of Allied Lyons, prompted suggestions that the company will shortly announce a wide-ranging reorganisation of its brewery division. The shares advanced 9p to 164p.

Stores recovered a few pence and food also recouped some of Thursday's falls. However, Associated Dairies reporting interim figures next Wednesday, lost 4p to 152p as at least one major broker downgraded his price forecast.

for some time, made selective progress. Rank Organisation was singled out for a 10p rise to 300p. The results are scheduled for January 29 and analysts are hoping for news of further rationalisation moves by the company. Oils perked up after their recent bout of depression on the threat of a price war. Helping the mood were rumours of a big oil find in the Medusa Strait, East of Java, by LASMO. The company later said that the reports were premature, but the shares still finished up 13p at 328p, 328p.

The Midland Crocker problems continued to hold back clearing banks and insurances also made a dull showing. In contrast discount houses, merchant banks and money brokers took a turn for the better. Gilts recovered half a point, behind the steady pound. Gilts also moved out of the doldrums with rises to 3p among the 'heavies'.

Recent press comment lifted Seaga Group, rated share of the coming year by one pence, 6p to 432p. Barrat Development's shares moved 10p to 50p.

Equity turnover for Thursday was 2,882, value £342,689.

● Paris: A decline in short-term French interest rates led share prices moderately higher in light trading. A 4-point decline in France's overnight call money rate to 10 1/2 per cent

was cited as the primary factor behind the advance. The general market indicator finished the day at its intraday high, up 0.47 per cent from Thursday.

● Frankfurt: Prices recovered to close mixed to steady in moderately active trading. The Commerzbank index inched up 0.9 point to 1,112.7.

● Tokyo: Prices rose in a half-day session. The market started on a shaky note, burdened by news of two straight declines on Wall Street and a sliding yen. Nikkei Dow Jones index: 11,568.06 (11,542.60).

● Hong Kong: Prices closed sharply higher in active trading. Brokers attributed the up-trend to local institutional and overseas buying. Hang Seng index: 1,282.30 (1,235.98).

● Money markets: The market had a much calmer day. Caution was not abandoned—the risk of a base rate rise was still recognised, but the word had gone round that perhaps things would not look so black after next Tuesday's money supply figures. A much less volatile session for the pound also helped.

FT Ordinary Share Index up 12.3 at 941.0. FT-SE 100 Index up 8.5 at 1214.6. Pound: \$1.538; DM: 2.65; Fr 11.17. Gold: \$307.50. Account: Decem. 24 to Jan 10. FT All Share Index up 3.8 at 585.46. Sterling Index 72.9 (1975=100). RPI 358.3 (November) up 4.9 per cent on year.

COMMODITIES

Copper: Cash £1.143 per tonne; three months: \$1.148 per tonne; May 1985: \$1.152 per tonne; July 1985: \$1.156 per tonne; Oct 1985: \$1.160 per tonne; Dec 1985: \$1.164 per tonne; Jan 1986: \$1.168 per tonne; Feb 1986: \$1.172 per tonne; Mar 1986: \$1.176 per tonne; Apr 1986: \$1.180 per tonne; May 1986: \$1.184 per tonne; Jun 1986: \$1.188 per tonne; Jul 1986: \$1.192 per tonne; Aug 1986: \$1.196 per tonne; Sep 1986: \$1.200 per tonne; Oct 1986: \$1.204 per tonne; Nov 1986: \$1.208 per tonne; Dec 1986: \$1.212 per tonne; Jan 1987: \$1.216 per tonne; Feb 1987: \$1.220 per tonne; Mar 1987: \$1.224 per tonne; Apr 1987: \$1.228 per tonne; May 1987: \$1.232 per tonne; Jun 1987: \$1.236 per tonne; Jul 1987: \$1.240 per tonne; Aug 1987: \$1.244 per tonne; Sep 1987: \$1.248 per tonne; Oct 1987: \$1.252 per tonne; Nov 1987: \$1.256 per tonne; Dec 1987: \$1.260 per tonne; Jan 1988: \$1.264 per tonne; Feb 1988: \$1.268 per tonne; Mar 1988: \$1.272 per tonne; Apr 1988: \$1.276 per tonne; May 1988: \$1.280 per tonne; 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Margaret Dibben does her best to relieve the debtor's post-Christmas gloom

How to meet the cost of giving



NEW YEAR has come, and Christmas is but a tinsel memory — until the day of reckoning — until the day when the bills come home to haunt.

Credit cards were used by a record number of people buying a record amount of Christmas supplies on credit this year, with millions of pounds of debt to be paid. To add to the mid-winter gloom, gas, electricity and telephone bills will arrive on many doorsteps this month.

So perhaps a little advice on how to spread the cost of paying the bills is timely. First the credit card. The Access, Barclaycard, Trustcard or other individually named cards belong either to the Mastercard or Visa groups. They give free credit for about six weeks and are an invaluable way of spreading the cost of Christmas over more than just a couple of weeks.

If you are a sucker for the January sales, then you will probably want to use the card again for the bargains and only pay off the minimum required on your credit card.

At this point you will start paying interest on the balance still owing at the rate of 1.75 per cent a month or 23.14 per cent true rate a year.

If you really are looking for money saving purchases, remember to add this percentage to the price ticket unless you know for certain that you will be able to pay off the whole credit card bill the next month.

When trying to avoid the problems of keeping creditors happy when you do not have enough money to pay them all, you need to sort out priorities and decide who is likely to be the most patient and who you least want to offend.

Bank managers can make life very awkward if they choose, so try not to run up an unauthorised overdraft or fail to make the repayments on your personal loan. Credit card companies can very easily withdraw your card if they decide you are too big a risk to bother with, as can the charge card companies such as American Express and Diners Club where you must pay off the whole bill each

month however much you have spent.

With all debts, if you are in serious trouble finding the money to meet your commitments, then do get in touch with your local branch manager or the head office to explain. It is in everybody's interest to help you pay rather than let the debt become so large and your straits so dire that you have no chance of repaying.

Fire purchase acquisitions can be reclaimed by the HP company if you default. If you have paid less than one third of the total price, you have no rights except that no one can enter your home without your permission. But if you have already paid more than one third, the HP company will have to obtain a court order to reclaim the goods.

Household bills can be spread throughout the year, although not all the systems are as beneficial as they at first sound. For example, the gas and electricity boards sell saving stamps at their showrooms, which you can buy as and when you want. The disadvantage here is that you

are paying money over before you have the use of the gas or electricity and you do not receive any interest on the money. A better scheme would be to open a building society or bank savings account and pay money in whenever you have a little spare to get the interest as well.

You could also arrange a budget account with the gas and electricity boards: they will estimate how much you are likely to pay in a full year and divide by 12. You pay this amount each month: in winter, when the bills are high, you will pay less than average and in the summer you will pay more. Instalments are equal throughout the year.

You can usually spread the cost of local authority rates through the year. At the very least, you should pay in two halves but better still is to delay the repayments over 10 months, as the authorities arrange, so you are paying in arrears rather than in advance.

Similarly, you may be able

to spread the water rate bill perhaps over eight months of the year. One or two regional water authorities issue savings stamps but the same objection applies as with the gas and electricity stamps, which, incidentally, are interchangeable.

Again British Telecom stamps for the telephone bill and stamps for a television licence are only of real benefit if you are completely untrusting with money. All these small contributions would be better put in an interest bearing savings account of some sort.

You can pay the road fund licence in two halves but it costs more if you do. The six month licence costs half the 12 month plus 10 per cent. You also run the risk that the charge will go up during the year and you will have to pay the higher fee in the second half.

Season tickets for your travelling costs are cheaper the longer you buy them for. And if you can persuade your employer to give you an interest free loan to pay for it,

you have an even better bargain. A British Rail annual season ticket saves 10 per cent over buying four quarters; a quarterly is 4 per cent cheaper than three monthlies; and a monthly is 4 per cent cheaper than four weeklies. That is a better rate of interest than you will get from the banks and building societies.

For those who are none too sharp at organising themselves a budget, some banks sell a special budget account. Broadly, you total your expected annual expenditure, add a service charge, and divide by 12. You pay this amount monthly to the bank and in return you can write out cheques from a special account. But this scheme will cost you either in interest charges or service charges.

Any way of paying more slowly for goods so that the money stays in your pocket longer is good, sound budgeting. Just be aware that you do not overstep the mark and fall foul of anyone who can make your life yet more expensive or more uncomfortable.

If you have an elderly relative who needs to go into a private or local authority home, beware of hasty decisions, warns Hilary Sesta. Check first what is available — and at what price.

In search of a home from home

ELDERLY PEOPLE going into residential accommodation now have more choice than ever before, and this is not necessarily dependent on their financial position.

A decision to move often has to be made suddenly, perhaps after a stay in hospital, since hospitals are loth to keep people in costly geriatric beds longer than they have to, fearful that they will become long-stay patients. Families are often only given a few days to make crucial decisions, and social workers are not always up-to-date on the constantly changing costs and the different types of residential care. If a place is available, they are thankful to have their client accepted in a local authority home. Sometimes decisions are made at a time of crisis, perhaps when one spouse dies, and at a time of grief and disorientation, the other wearsily gives into the pressure to sell up a home and move into the first residential care that is offered.

A common myth is that local authority homes are free. Not so. If you have capital assets of more than £1,200 you could find yourself paying more than if you were in a private home and getting less for your money.

The charge for residential accommodation in both local authority and voluntary and private homes varies throughout the country. Each local authority fixes a standard charge, which also applies to those who stay in private homes. This supposedly reflects the economic cost of its provision, but a close look at a council's open audit can produce some surprises about the way the charge is calculated on average, and does not reflect the care given in any one home. The average is between £100 and £120 a week, although many charge more.

The same charge applies even if a resident is sharing a room with another. It is calculated on average, and does not reflect the care given in any one home. The average is between £100 and £120 a week, although many charge more.

The minimum charge in all local authority homes is £27.25, and the resident retains £6.80 for personal expenses. These two sums make up the equivalent of the basic retirement pension. In certain cases this charge is met by supplementary benefit. Income and capital are taken into account when assessing whether a person can afford to pay the full standard charge.

The value of a house no longer used by the resident of a home is often included as a capital resource. The local authority cannot force the sale of a home, but it can take the capital value into account when making the assessment, and can invite the resident to agree to the payment of a legal charge on it, so that outstanding sums can be recovered when the house is eventually sold.

Up to £4 a week is disregarded from income such as war or disablement pension and certain other sources. Age Concern produce an excellent fact sheet for anyone seeking further details. The DHSS is at present considering proposals for changes in the charging procedures, and Age Concern have urged the Government to produce its own booklet "so that elderly people will know their rights... and not have to rely on the advice of people and income which they have not expected."

Unpalatable as it is for some, the new Supplementary Benefit regulations offer a considerable financial incentive to seek voluntary or private care. The DHSS say they are aiming to ensure that people in need of a particular type of care and accommodation are able to afford it, while at the same time protecting the public purse by paying no more than the going rate in a given area. An independent adjudicator sets a limit by averaging the maximum fees in the locality for registered homes, residential care (RCL) and nursing home care (NCL). Many homes actually charge less than this limit. The limits range from a low of £80 per week RCL and £100 NCL in Cornwall to an RCL of £215 and NCL of £235 in Redbridge.

Claims for supplementary benefit for people entering

registered private rest homes and nursing homes are assessed by the local DHSS offices. Pensioners who have no more than £3,000 in savings, including property, investments etc. are eligible. In certain circumstances, the value of a former home can be disregarded. In the case of a married couple, property in which one partner is continuing to live is disregarded, and except for temporary admissions, the requirements and the resources of each are assessed separately.

Allowances are worked out according to the fees payable, subject to a maximum RCL or NCL, plus a £9.35 minimum weekly personal allowance. In certain cases, any shortfall, where fees are above the limit, will be met from the attendance allowance; and possibly limited extensions. It is understood that nursing home fees include such minimal medical requirements as the giving of drugs and injections, but major medical expenses are not met. It is also understood that residents will receive normal National Health Service assistance including a doctor's visits, chiropody, dentistry, and the care of a district nurse. This is an important detail for anyone of limited means. Counsel and Care for the Elderly have produced a very helpful, comprehensive leaflet giving details of further allowances and showing how additional requirements can be met, and also how charges are assessed.



That's the trouble with the Hongkong dollar, at hour or so after using up your supply you feel like spending some more

Many people, like Harriet Harman, MP, are concerned about the growing numbers of private homes and concerned too that the Government appears to be shifting resources from the public to the private sector. She says, "Without proper legislation the inevitable consequence is exploitation of the elderly and the infirm."

Keith Manslip of Hampshire Social Services thinks there is a way of safeguarding standards. He says, "Like others, I consider that there should be a unification of the DHSS and the social services in this matter. There should be one body which assesses the homes, sets the standards, and gives the private sector a unified funding should be given if the home is not considered adequate."

Although homes must be registered, the officers responsible for registration have been criticised. Malcolm Johnson, who was chairman of the working party that produced the Code of Practice for Residential Care, wrote recently that although he recognised that many of these officers are outstandingly good, many others are not trained to carry out such a demanding task. So it is left to the customers themselves to try to make sure that they will receive value for money when they pay. Many elderly people going into homes may be frail in body, but they are mentally alert. So are the people who have been caring for them at home. They should read the Code of Practice and make sure that it is being adhered to by all the homes, whether local authority, voluntary or private.

Newer subsidies should mean better care all round. The local authorities have had a lot of pressure taken from them, and should look to improving their own homes.

Investment with a sense of fun

David Worsfold counts the large sums of cash being poured into leisure

MANY of you probably enjoyed a long break over Christmas — and some may not have returned to work till well into the New Year. It is not so many years past when such a shutdown of the British industry and commerce would have been unthinkable. Even into the mid-seventies, companies that decided to close their doors for the entire Christmas and New Year period found themselves the subject of critical headlines in the popular press.

Nowadays we all have more leisure time and what's more we have quickly come to take it for granted. We spend £50 billions a year on leisure activities, and this figure is expected to rise by about 2 per cent in real terms over the next five years. We are all going to have more spare time and those of us fortunate to be in employment are going to be spending a lot of money on enjoying ourselves.

Such has been the growth in the leisure sector that the beginning of this year saw the launch of two unit trusts specialising in this area, the Britannia International Leisure Market Fund and the Barclays Unicorn Leisure Trust, offering us all the possibility of reaping some reward from our enjoyment. In less than ten months £16 millions has been invested in these funds.

But what, you may ask, do leisure funds invest in?

The most important aspect of the leisure sector, only a small part of which is quoted on the Stock Exchange, is its diversity. For example, the leisure sector is divided into six categories: gaming (betting shops and casinos), TV contracting (the ITV companies), TV rental, tour operators, hotels and miscellaneous. This latter category includes the large leisure groups such as Ladbrokes and Pleasureland as well as small, and at present highly specialised, companies such as Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, whose team is currently riding somewhat higher than its shares.

Outside the Stock Market the Unlisted Securities Market (sort of miniature stock market for smaller, newer concerns) has a wide range of companies interested in amusing us in our spare time, ranging from restaurant chains to dance studios. And then there are those

is the case with most sports facilities.

Both of the funds open to small investors stick to the companies listed on the Stock Market or the USM but both go beyond the six categories of leisure shares and take in publishing and breweries. As the name suggests, the Britannia fund also has a substantial international investment. In fact, only 11.9 per cent of it is invested in the UK, with just over half of the fund invested in America. The Barclays Unicorn Trust has a much stronger bias towards the UK with 65 per cent currently invested here, with the balance in the US and Japan.

As both funds have been going for less than a year it is too early to tell how well they are performing, although there are some big gains to be had in the leisure sector. During the year hotels have outperformed the FT All Share Index by over 60 per cent and that was before the current round of takeover activity forced the prices up even further.

Not far behind this spectacular performance has been TV contracting which has an aura of greater stability about it than usual because the Government has extended the commercial television franchises from 1982 to the mid-1990s as a carrot to the companies to get involved with the funding of direct broadcasting by satellite.

If you ever want proof that where there are big gains there are also big losses, you need look no further than the leisure sector. While hotels and TV contractors were shooting ahead, TV rentals were having a wretched time, underperforming the FT All Share Index by up to 30 per cent in some cases. On top of that, some expert commentators were penning the sector's obituary, saying they doubted whether TV rental had a future in this country.

If you like the idea of investing in specialist sectors through the medium of unit trusts and leisure particularly catches your eye, the best advice is to wait until the first set of comparative full-year performance figures appear early next year for the two funds currently available. If they appear to be doing well in comparison with more general equity funds then they could be worth a whirl. Always remember though, that it is best not to commit more than 5 per cent to 10 per cent of your total investments to such specialist funds.

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COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund compared with the FT Indices, the Retail Price Index and an extra-interest account in a Building Society offering 11½% above the average yearly rate.

Year to 31st Dec	M&G Recovery Fund	FT Ordinary Index	FT All Share Index	Retail Price Index	Building Society
23 May 69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1969	11,360	9,807	9,928	10,219	10,373
1970	11,760	8,570	9,536	11,020	11,058
1971	19,200	12,110	13,773	12,012	11,789
1972	26,640	13,006	13,983	12,930	12,568
1973	22,720	9,212	11,249	14,300	13,604
1974	15,120	4,637	5,232	17,041	14,856
1975	26,400	11,121	12,934	21,283	16,178
1976	27,200	10,835	12,823	24,490	17,569
1977	59,600	15,680	19,127	27,464	19,094
1978	74,240	15,688	20,298	29,781	20,610
1979	89,200	14,498	22,000	34,898	22,714
1980	102,560	17,287	28,967	40,175	25,521
1981	120,000	20,209	32,420	45,015	28,287
1982	114,240	23,539	41,166	47,449	31,196
1983	162,720	31,638	52,337	49,971	33,822
1984	214,720	39,869	67,785	52,470	36,840

NOTES: Figures for M&G Recovery, the FT Indices and the Building Society include reinvested net income. Figures for M&G Recovery show the realisation values.

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WEEK-END MONEY



Judy Williamson. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

Alice Lloyd on why some of the big banks think their clients need personal assistance as well as loans

A welcoming face in the hall

THE bank manager in every cupboard advertising campaign never did quite ring true. Somehow we knew that the man at the top was reserved for the big-timers who had really huge overdrafts on wanted to borrow lots of money.

The rest of us with our little every day problems had to queue with the herd and about lost cheques and un- bank changes through the glass screen.

But banks are trying harder and the Barclay's experiment to give banking a human face by the use of Personal Bankers is now firmly entrenched as company policy.

Seven years ago they pin- arily installed a handful of auquise-uniformed, young

ladies behind desks on the public side of the banking hall. Now there are 336 Barclay's branches with more than 800 full-time personal bankers, still nearly all women, and an army of reserves.

Customers are sent a plastic card giving them the name of their personal banker whom they can consult at any time without an appointment. But in reality the consultations are likely to be extremely limited. The personal bankers are there to direct customers to new services and accounts. They are not qualified to give any sort of investment or strategic advice.

It is not to say that they do not perform a signifi-

cant social role — making the bank a less forbidding place to the wary and helping newcomers through the maze of bank procedures.

Judy Williamson, who has been a personal banker at Barclay's Finchley Central branch in North London for two years, sees 30 to 50 customers a day. She takes a particular interest in the junior customers and has organised a Christmas quiz for them. "But I also see quite a lot of elderly customers who need help. Sometimes I will help them fill out a cheque or sort out their statements."

Judy has the authority to allow customers to overdraw up to a certain limit, but other bank managers do not give such discretion.

From the bank's point of view, the personal bankers free more senior staff from routine inquiries and introduce a new step on the career ladder. Typically personal bankers have had at least three years' experience behind the counter in book-keeping, cashiering and doing standing order work before they "come out." All but seven are women, and the vast majority leave sooner or later to have children and do not return.

Lloyds followed Barclay's example two and a half years ago and brought in Customer Services Officers, now in 44 branches.

Lloyds' customers are not assigned their "own" banker and the bankers do not wear

any sort of uniform, but otherwise their duties are the same as the Barclay's bankers. Lloyds must think they are doing some good as more branches are to get Customer Services Officers.

And now Midland Bank say personal bankers are "under consideration."

Personal bankers are never going to be universal. They will always be concentrated on the branches with a large number of personal customers and the floor space to add a desk and chair on the customer side of the counters.

But the new fashion in banks is to do away with the glass screen divide altogether and have a fully open-plan banking hall with a secure space behind.

The poor stay poor

For families on low incomes, new plans for sickness benefit could mean a dramatic drop in earnings. Linda Lennard reports

A BILL is now being rushed through Parliament which has profound implications if you become unable to work because of sickness. One of the Bill's main proposals is the extension of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) so that, in future it will cover the first 28 weeks of sickness, instead of just the first eight weeks as now. This means that, from April 1985, your employer will be responsible for paying you Statutory Sick Pay for up to 28 weeks if you cannot work because of sickness. At present, most people are entitled to up to eight weeks of SSP from their employer in a tax year. If you are still off sick at the end of the eight weeks, you can go on to claim state sickness benefit directly from the DHSS. And after 28 weeks, you can claim invalidity benefit, as long as you had sufficient national insurance contributions to qualify for sickness benefit.

If the Government is successful in getting the Bill through Parliament, it will effectively mean the end of sickness benefit for most employees. From April 1985, you will be able to claim this benefit only if you are unemployed or self-employed, or you fall into one of the categories of workers who are excluded from SSP, e.g. if you are on a set contract of less than three months.

What will this mean in cash terms? For many families, especially low-paid workers, the extension of SSP will be bad news financially. SSP is payable at three flat rates according to average weekly earnings.

Weekly Rates	Average Weekly of SSP
£28.55	£34.00-£50.49
£35.45	£50.50-£67.59
£42.25	£68 or more

These rates will increase on April 6, 1985. Unlike sickness benefit, SSP is taxable and

subject to deductions for national insurance contributions. And again, unlike sickness benefit, no additions for any dependants are paid with SSP.

Furthermore, the present rate of sickness benefit is £27.25 per week, if you are under pensionable age, plus £16.80 a week for an adult dependant. For a couple on SSP, the financial loss compared with sickness benefit — can range from £1.80 a week, for higher-paid workers, to as much as £15.50 a week for those at the bottom of the income scale. The loss will be exacerbated by the fact that SSP is subject to deductions for tax and national insurance contributions.

You can claim supplementary benefit on top of SSP, and it is worth enquiring about this at your local DHSS office. You may also be entitled to private occupational sick pay from your employer, depending on the rules of your employer's scheme. But many people are not covered by any occupational scheme, especially those in low-paid jobs, and will have to rely solely on SSP, perhaps topped up by supplementary benefit. From April 1985, you will be able to transfer on to invalidity benefit, after you have been on SSP. The exact details of how this will work have not yet been made public.

Note that employers can use occupational sick pay to count towards your SSP payments. But they must stick to the rules of the SSP scheme, which are laid down in legislation. This applies even if the SSP money comes out of any occupational scheme which has rules different from those governing SSP. It is also vital to remember that, if the occupational sick pay is less than your SSP entitlement, your employer must make up the difference.

How does the SSP scheme work? Employers are responsible for the administration and payment of SSP but they can claim the money back from the Government. At present, both employers and employees are liable to pay national insurance contributions on SSP payments. DHSS only employees will be liable to pay these in future, according to the Bill.

Apart from the financial considerations, there are

other pitfalls in the SSP scheme for employees. The scheme was set up in such a way that the DHSS has no powers to enforce payment of SSP by employers. If the DHSS Adjudication Officer, Social Security Appeal Tribunal, or even the Social Security Commissioner, issue a decision that you are entitled to SSP, the DHSS cannot force a recalcitrant employer to pay up. Instead, you could be left in the position of having to take your employer to the County Court to get the decision enforced. The only help available from the DHSS, if you end up in this position, is in providing a loan to cover the court fees. This has to be repaid if you manage to recover all or part of the SSP from your employer.

Employers also have a great deal of leeway in the way SSP is administered, although there are minimal rules laid down in legislation. For example, it is up to the employer to decide what evidence you have to provide to show that you are unfit for work. The DHSS has said that the employer can ask for "reasonable evidence" e.g. a self-certification for absence of four to seven days, and a doctor's note thereafter.

The DHSS has not laid down any rules as to the amount of detail needed in a self-certification — but a number of employers have introduced lengthy forms requiring a lot of detail. Some employers might also try to insist that employees are examined by a company doctor. Remember that this is not in the DHSS rules, so it is not a legal requirement for SSP.

It is very important to try and negotiate an agreement with your employer over the rules of SSP, in order to safeguard your interests. If you are a member of a trade union, your union may have already negotiated an agreement. If not, contact your union and ask them to negotiate on your behalf. The terms of any agreement with your employer should normally become part of your contract of employment.

The following free leaflets are available from the DHSS: NI18 SSP and Sickness Benefit; NI244 Check Your Rights to Statutory Sick Pay; NI227 Employers Guide to Statutory Sick Pay.

If a study has a small window it must be a bathroom

Lindsay Cook looks back on a few problems with planning permission

WITHIN days of applying for planning permission to add a kitchen and bathroom to our 200-year-old house, we were told that we may have to stop using one of the bedrooms and could be required to tear out all the original doors and replace them with fire doors.

The problem, we were told, was that the basement bedroom was too big. At 15ft by 17ft, it didn't have enough windowspace to make it a habitable room, said the environmental health people.

Their suggestion was that the concrete floor could be dug up, at a cost of several thousand pounds, and the room converted to a bathroom or utility room as these are the only uses permitted for such an area.

Even returning the room to its original use, years ago, as a kitchen would not be permitted because a kitchen of that size would be regarded as a habitable room. It seems that the authorities think the only rooms you don't spend a long time in are bedrooms and utility rooms.

The fact that every household in our London street was using the basements illegally was no defence; the authorities were only interested in our house as we had applied for planning permission and listed building consent.

It seemed for several days that we were going to have to comply with the requirements of the environmental health department, if we were to get our kitchen. But finally, after an exchange of letters pointing out that the local council had given the previous owners of the house a grant to bring the basement room up to its present standards, and on the understanding that the room was not being used permanently as a bedroom, the department waived their requirement to change its use.

At about the same time, the fire officials informed us that they could not insist that we replace all the doors, as it was a house in single occupation, although they still recommended that we did so.

By now three months had passed after our first meeting with the local planning department and listed building officials to discuss our proposals for an old house, which did not have a proper kitchen and we were no longer surprised at what was required of us.

On that cold April morning we looked at the back of the house with its existing extension (a sort of garden shed on stilts, appended to the first floor and used as a study) and I learnt that we would need official consent to remove the extension in the pouring rain, clutching soggy plans discussing the detailed proposals, which had been greatly influenced by the comments of the officials at the first meeting.

By this stage a lengthy correspondence had been conducted with the owner of the house next door, temporarily abroad, as to whether he felt his privacy was being invaded, would like us to make any changes to our plans and would allow us to knock down and rebuild a wall.

He had agreed to everything and in fact had considered asking us to extend the wall to allow him to add a conservatory to his house, on his return.

A few more letters arrived from the planning authorities and a few minor changes to the plans took place before we were told that the planning committee would consider the application in November.

It went through, without hitch. Now we have to find a builder and within five years build the extension "to match the existing original work in respect of material, colour, texture and profile and in the case of brickwork, facebond and pointing."

If the property had not been listed, we might have already completed building the extension because developments of less than 15 per cent of the volume of the original building are permitted without applying for planning permission.

But we would have had to have paid about 15 per cent more for the work listed buildings — and there are more than 300,000 in England and Wales — are exempt from VAT on approved alterations, which need the consent of the appropriate planning authority, while other extensions have been caught in the Chancellor's net since last June.

What's more, in those two years, we've achieved a better combined return on capital than any other of the ten unit trusts groups taking part, finishing first (up 46.4%) and third (up 17.2%) respectively.

Now, with the 1985 "Telegraph" Competition getting under way, we're offering you an opportunity to invest in our Managers' choice for the coming year.

TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is, we believe, the trust most likely to succeed in the drive for capital growth over the next twelve months.

And now is the right time to invest. Because, in a competition like this, our Investment Managers make a detailed analysis of the world's market conditions as they are today, and then decide which trust is best placed to profit most from an investment now.

Which is why you should invest at the outset, to get the greatest return.

WHY CHOOSE SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES?

TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust was the trust we ran with in 1984.

Then, in volatile market conditions, we finished third in the competition, increasing our original investment by 17.2%.

Now our Managers take the view that, after two years of spectacular if uneven performance, the world's stock markets could well be set fair for further gains. And they believe TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is the one trust best placed for growth in 1985.

THE ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT THIS TRUST

Managers: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association).

Investment Managers: Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited, Trustees: General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc. Charge: 5% on initial purchase; thereafter 4% p.a. (plus VAT) of the Fund's value, deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1% p.a.; the Managers will give unitholders at least 3 months' written notice of any change. These charges are included in the offer price of the units.

Selling units: Units can be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. Payment will be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate.

Recommendations: Payable to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request. Price/Yield: Offer price for Accumulation Units 49.4p, estimated current gross yield 2.32%, both on January 4th 1985. Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press. Income distribution: May 6th and November 6th each year. Reg. Office and Nat. Keene House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG/162925.

MY WIFE has just started employment and would like to use part of her salary to accumulate some capital. What savings scheme would you advise? — D.G.L., Cambridge.

MOST of the major unit trust management groups run savings schemes linked to various funds including capital growth funds. Minimum contributions can be as little as £5 a month — for example the Brown Shipley Growth Fund. Normally, however, the minimum is £10 or £20, though contributions need not be regular.

A NEW YEAR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FROM TSB

Invest today in our choice for '85:



TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

1% BONUS if you invest before Jan 31st 1985

Two years ago, when we entered the "Daily Telegraph" Unit Trust Managers' Competition for the first time, we won it.

What's more, in those two years, we've achieved a better combined return on capital than any other of the ten unit trusts groups taking part, finishing first (up 46.4%) and third (up 17.2%) respectively.

Now, with the 1985 "Telegraph" Competition getting under way, we're offering you an opportunity to invest in our Managers' choice for the coming year.

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Launched in April 1982, TSB's Selected Opportunities Unit Trust takes a fresh and individual approach to investment management.

With a three-tiered portfolio, it sets out to achieve maximum capital growth by investing in both UK and overseas stocks.

Looking to the long term, the Managers select companies which, with strong and vigorous management ideas, look destined to achieve — and sustain — a high rate of growth.

The medium-term view takes in companies whose industrial cycle is on the upturn and whose future will benefit from growth in the sector they operate in.

The short-term tactic is to select opportunities for profit from takeover situations, rights issues and new company flotations which, skillfully timed, can significantly increase the trust's overall capital growth, as we have recently seen.

Free to invest anywhere in the world, the Managers can seize individual growth opportunities wherever and whenever they may occur.

Currently, 12% of the total portfolio is invested overseas, in areas as far apart as America, the Netherlands, the Far East and Australia. The Managers can increase this percentage at any time, should profitable situations present themselves.

INVEST TODAY FOR A BONUS

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you

should regard your investment as being a medium to long-term one.

But, with all the signs pointing to sustained and steady growth in the markets open to us, we believe an investment now in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust should reward you handsomely.

As a further incentive, if you invest any amount before January 31st 1985, we'll add a 1% New Year bonus of free extra units to your unitholding, at no extra cost to you.

This, and our Investment Managers' commitment to continuing success in this Competition, makes an investment in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust an ideal opportunity for profit.

(If you already have a holding in this successful trust, we recommend you increase it now for a 1% bonus and the prospect of further profit.)

PHONE YOUR ORDER TODAY

You can invest today by using the coupon below. Or, because the timing of this offer is so crucial, you can ring our Special Dealing Desk on (0264) 63432/3/4 any time between 10am and 4pm on Saturday/Sunday, January 5th/6th, and buy your units by phone.

Either way, the time is right, the trust is right and the bonus is right. We recommend you invest today.

YOU CAN BUY UNITS THIS WEEKEND. JUST PHONE (0264) 63432/3/4 10am-4pm

TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

Generous Share Exchange Facilities for Investors Holding Shares or Units (tick box for details)

Bonus Application Form valid until January 31st 1985

To: Fred Shaftoe, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keene House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 63432/3/4.

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms (Forenames)

Surname

Address

Postcode

I/We wish to invest £ (min £250) in the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of this application and to include a 1% bonus of free extra units, if I/we invest before 31.1.85. I/We enclose a cheque payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

As a general rule, Accumulation Units, with income reinvested, will be issued to all investors.

If you would prefer Income Units, with income distributed twice yearly, please tick here.

Tick here if you would like details of our Share Exchange facilities.

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper.

This offer is only open to persons who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Signature

Date

421

MAIL ORDER PROTECTION SCHEME

CINEMAS

HARROGATE THEATRE
Box Office: (0432) 509112
EXCITING NEW SEASON!
See your favourite stars
with a Season Ticket
January 24-February 9
Theatre Royal, Harrogate
Townsmen's Guild Dramas
MURDER MYSTERY

THE WOMAN IN WHITE
March 7-23
MAY PAT FRIEND
with Freddie Lee
March 22-April 13
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
IT'S BACK!!!
April 16-May 6
RTE 10-11

1 Dunn's West-End Hlt
y 9-25

OUTSIDE EDGE
Richard Harris's cricketing comedy

PALACE THEATRE
OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER

Book Routine \$30 0144, Empiriz 2
all Plans: are No smoking Theaters
EMPIRE 1, Leicester Square, SW1
(PG). In 70mm DOLBY STEREO. 5e
Progs. Daily 12.30 (not Sun.), 3.00,
6.45 and 8.30*. Late show Fri. & Sat.
11.15
per.

EMPIRE 2, Leicester Square, INDIAN
JONES and THE TEMPLE OF DOOM
(PG). In DOLBY DIGITAL. 5e
Daily 11.45, 1.30, 3.00, 5.15, 7.00
and 9.15. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15

Office Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Today at 4 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

ALADDIN

The all-star pantomime for the whole family starring

Sa Pollard, Matthew Kelly,
Derek Griffiths, Annette Rice,
Edward Rochester and
Neil Wolf & Tanya Trinder

7.15. Extra Show 11.15 am (in Sun.)

PLAZA 2. 1984 (15). Sep. prom. IN 1.0 (Not Sun. 1.30-2.0). 8.30.

P. 3. ANNIE HALL 8.15. (C) 1.0. (Not Sun. 1.30-2.0).

P. 4. Paddy the Dog 8.15. (C) 1.0. (Not Sun. 1.30-2.0).

HATTAN 1.0 (Sat. prom. daily 3.30-4.15).

7.15.

ALFA 1.0 (Sat. prom. daily 3.30-4.15).

**tickets \$3.50 to \$7.50 still avail.
half-price for children and huge
concessions for groups.
Until January 26**

The New Vix Theatre presents
UNDER MILK WOOD
BY DYLAN THOMAS
Directed by Michael Bogdanov
"Stimulating, provocative and first

ratio." Cork Examiner.
 Tickets £2.50 to £6.50.

January 28 to February 2

BALLET RAMBERT

Two exciting programs with a world premiere of a new ballet from the American Ballet Theatre, *Don Quixote*.

Repertoire also includes: *Wildfire* (Alston), *Voices and Light Footage* (Alston), *Les Sylphides* (Alston).

Tickets bookable
Sunday mat. 2.45 p.m.
STRANGER THAN PARADISE (15)
EVERYMAN CHINA (PG) (Harper/Tube)
TUBE) 4.55 1255 PERCY ADLTON
THE SWING (PG). Film at 3.5, 6.1
8.45

GATE LEICESTERSHIRE 1 & 2.
LST 8402/11/17. Russell St. Tube.
1 Last 5 Days/ 1984 11.5. 2.30. 4.45.

to the Malindi (North), Belgamit
a Dream (Bruce), Entre dos Aguas
(North).

TICKETS 23.50 TO 17.50
 February 5 to 9
 CHARLTON HESTON
 and all-star cast in
 THE CAINE MURDER COURT-MARTIAL
 based on the Pulitzer
 Prize-winning story
 by Herman Wouk.

Tickets £4.50 to £11.50
February 18 to 23

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHOLOR DREAMCOAT
Tickets from \$2.50
February 25 to March 9

SEVEN BROTHERS
The blockbuster MGM
now on stage. Featuring "Blondie"

Yours Beautiful Hide, Spring Forest Springs, "Gala Courtin'" & "Sobbin' Women"

Tickets from \$9 with huge concessions for groups.

March 12 to April 6

**BOX OFFICE 861-2352 9932
CREDIT CARDS 921-23012**

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (R)
**5052) "THE LATE STARLIGHT"
(2nd)** LEONARD STAYNOR
9.50 Late Night show Fri. & Sat.
11.50 pm. Advance booking for
performances. Complete booking
with Access and Visa only.
LUMIERE CINEMA, 856 0691.
Mardiage Lane, Leicester Tube Leicester
NEIL ARMSTRONG
WINNING FILM THE COMPANY C

GROUP BKGS. 651-235 9926

**THE
OPERA HOUSE
MANCHESTER**

COMING SHORTLY

Closed for refurbishment, re-open-
ing Jan 10 with LES CHIENS (15).
NATIONAL FILM THEATRE (US 1982)
NFT1: 2.0, 6.40 THE YEAR OF LIVING
DANGEROUSLY (1) (Australia 1982)
NFT2: 4.5 CHALK (USA 1974)
NFT3: 2.25 MISSING (USA 1981)
NFT4: 4.0 THE BLACK STALLION
(USA 1979) (tickets £1.50 children
£2.40 adults)
NFT5: 6.15 THE DRY SHORE OF A CHAN

**THE PIRATES OF
PENZANCE**

The swanbucks speak-hill musical
Direct from New York and London.
"exhilarating swanbuckling showman-
ship." The Times
Opening on March 5 for a Season with
reduced price previews on March 3, 4
and 5.
Box Office Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets from £4.50.

BOX OFFICE 061-831 7775
CREDIT CARDS 061-831 7733
GROUP BKGs. 061-831 7400

STRATFORD-ON-AVON Royal
Stratford Theatre (0185) 280581
SEATTLE'S SHAKESPEARE COM.
IN LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST. Today

... a treat." The Times.
 SILENT, Mon., Tue., 7.30 " ... a
 silent that sears the memory" D.
 RICHARD III Wed. 7.30. Thur.

1. 30 " " extraordinary, exciting
and continuously successful produc-
tion " D. Mail, for record mail/
theatre deals ring 0789 57262.

CINEMAS

London

A MAN LIKE EVA (18)
3.20, 5.10, 7.10, 9.10
Late Show 11.15
DIVA (18)
THE MOON IN HER GUTTER (15)
SCREEN ON BAKER STREET, 55
2779.
1) THE FOURTH MAN (18)
2.35 - 5.10

EMY 1, 437 2981. The Tavianis' (15). Sep. perfs.: Weekdays

NEW YEAR FOCUS

ALLE

<p>MAURICE HANDFORD Conducts TONORWY 7.30 (S) TCHAIKOVSKY PATHETIQUE SYM TIPPETT Con. for Double String Or. MOZART Oboe Concerto OBOE RICHARD SIMPSON</p>	<p>JAMES LOUGHRAN Conducts Thurs. Jan. 17 7.30 (S) Sponsored by Martini & Rossi DVOŘAK SYM No. 9 SVOLAN Serenade for Wind MARTINI Con. for Double String Or. Sun. Jan. 20 7.30 (S)</p>
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FOLLOW-UP

JAMES LOUGHAN
Conducts
Monday, Thurs., Sat., 7.30 (5)
BEETHOVEN EVENING
Please note change of programme
Sponsored by Martin & Rose
PASTORAL SYMPHONY
On Thursdays, Piano Con. No. 4
DR. DONALD SHELLEY

(5) — Standby for Students & b

BBC PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS
Free Trade Hall, Tuesday, January 15, 7.30 p.m.

VIDEO: VOCI FOR VIOLA AND (UK Preview)

BERIO: SINFONIA
ALDO BERNICI viola
Conductor LUCIANO BERIO

Tickets \$1.50 to \$8.
Reduced rates for students / senior citizens / unemployed, from Free Trade Hall Box Office, Manchester Information Centre, Bury Metro Arts Assn., and Stockport.

DISCOUNTS ON HALF-SEASONS
from RMC Concert Rotation. R.O.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
LINDSAY STRING QUARTET

INDSAT 3 STRIP

Op. 55/5, Tippett No. 1 and Mozart's "Burr". Subsequent concerts are on February 15, March 8, May 10 and June 14.

Tickets (reserved) £3 (£1.50) from Faculty of Music, Denmark Road, Manchester M15 6PY. Tel 061-275 3533, ext. 3557 or at door.

CHESTER GATEWAY

QUEENS THEATRE

THEATRE

Box Office (2244) 49393
Thursday, January 24,
to Saturday, February 25

WAY UPSTREAM

the hilarious comedy by
ALAN AYCKBURN

Tuesday to Thursday 7:30 am, Friday
and Saturday at 8 am.
Brighten up your New Year with a visit
to the Gateway Theatre.
"Way Upstream as it should be seen ..
on water."
Full details from Box Office, open daily
January 18, Our Christmas Presentation:
is the famous TOAD SHOW TOAD
HALL, "The Wind in the Willows"
A. M. Allen, with Music by R. Fraser
Sincock. Specially Designed for The
Northwest by
RAYMOND BRIGGS (author of
Famous the Rosemary, The Snow Man,
Felix Christmas, When the Wind
Blows, The Wind in the Willows)

(except Sunday).

**On Your Farm
In Perspective.**

[illegible]

9:00 **News: Saturday Special** 15 **Saturday Special**
 9:15 **Comedy** 15 **Comedy**
 9:30 **News: Saturday Special** 30 **News: Saturday Special**
 9:45 **What's the News** 10 **What's the News**
 10:00 **Politics** 10 **Politics**
 10:15 **From Our Own Correspondent** 30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
 10:30 **News: Saturday Special** 15 **News: Saturday Special**
 10:45 **Sports Roundup** 15 **Sports Roundup**
 11:00 **News: 11:00 Commentary** 11 **News: 11:00 Commentary**
 11:15 **Letterbox** 11 **Letterbox**
 11:30 **Merridian** 12 **Merridian**
 11:45 **News: 12:00 News About Britain** 12 **News: 12:00 News About Britain**
 12:00 **News: 12:00 News About Britain** 12 **News: 12:00 News About Britain**
 12:15 **Dozen** 10 **Dozen**
 12:30 **News: Play of the Week** 10 **News: Play of the Week**
 12:45 **Kreutzer Sonata** 20 **News: 2:00 News** 20 **News: 2:00 News**
 13:00 **Press Review** 15 **Sarkis and Sarkis** 15 **Sarkis and Sarkis**
 13:15 **20 Sports Roundup** 15 **20 Sports Roundup**
 13:30 **News: 3:00 News** 15 **News: 3:00 News**
 13:45 **From Our Own Correspondent** 30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
 14:00 **News: 4:00 News** 15 **News: 4:00 News**
 14:15 **Newsweek** 30 **Newsweek**
 14:30 **Juke Box** 30 **Juke Box**
 14:45 **Dury** 30 **Dury**

South America.

3 10 Prelude.
 3 10 News: Morning Has Broken.
 7 0 News: Sunday Papers; 7 15/Annals
 7 0 His Charming; 7 15/Annals
 7 50 Turning Over a New Leaf
 8 0 News: Sunday Papers.
 3 15 Sunday.
 5 50 Week's Good Conns: Gloucester
 5 50 and Speck's Adventure Play-
 5 50 ground Association.
 9 0 News: Sunday Papers.
 9 15 Letter from America by Alister
 9 15 Cooke.
 9 30 Morning Service.
 10 15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
 11 15 Weekend.
 12 0 Smash of the Day: The Goon
 12 0 Show. 1955 production of Nine-
 12 0 years' live-duty with all-star cast
 12 0 Sellers. Second series by Milligan.
 12 30 The Food Programme. Epicurean
 12 30 Anthology of English diarists
 12 30 devised by Christopher Driver.
 1 0 The World This Weekend: News.
 1 0 The 20th Anniversary: Question Time
 1 0 visits County Durham.
 2 30 Afternoon Play: Miss Julie.
 2 30 Strindberg's study of female sex-
 3 40 uality.
 3 40 The Foremost Singer in the
 3 40 World: Portrait of Angelica Cata-
 4 0 lani.
 4 0 News: Talking About Antiques.
 4 30 The Living World Follows migrant
 5 0 birds.
 5 0 News: Down Your Way visits
 5 0 Caerphilly.
 6 0 News.
 6 15 Underground Britain: A stroll
 6 15 under the Thames and cycle ride
 6 15 through an Oxford sewer.
 6 30 Bookshelf.
 7 0 Father-Born Stories by G. K.
 7 0 Chesterton (4).
 7 30 The Circle of National Happiness:
 7 30 Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.
 8 15 In Praise of God: Meditation.
 8 15 News: Masters' India: Four: Bhg.
 8 15 and New Junction (2).
 9 0 News.
 9 10 News.
 10 15 The Four Seasons - Winter.
 10 15 Before the Ending of the Day.
 11 15 The Mystery of Agatha Christie.
 11 15 News: weather: shipping.
 VHF: 4 0-9 pm Study on 4.
 Waves: (240m): 5 0 Am As Radio. 4 10
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 5 All Times Considered 4 35 Am As
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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

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MARRIAGES

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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...the Opposi...
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DEATHS

...the Opposi...
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

...the Opposi...
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TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE

...the Opposi...
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MAKE THIS YEAR YOU LEARN TO WRITE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

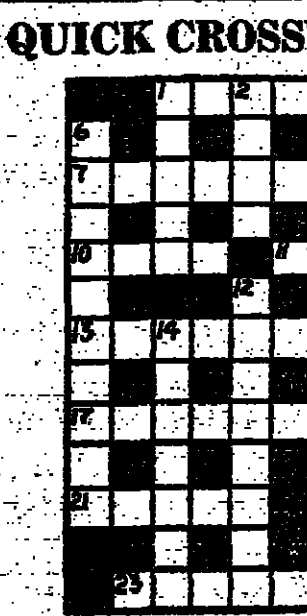
Swamp chaotic airports

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

Forest Commission

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

QUICK CROSSWORD No. 4,600



ACROSS
1 Formation of string between fingers (4)
2 Old-fashioned and trite (7)
3 The food of love (5)
4 Tube or flute (6)
5 Ban - Homer (4)
6 Sovereign state (6)
7 Struggle or difficulty (6)
8 Moat - swamp (6)
9 Sliver (6)
10 Mendacious (6)
11 Sliver (6)
12 Mendacious (6)
13 Sliver (6)
14 Mendacious (6)
15 Sliver (6)
16 Mendacious (6)
17 Sliver (6)
18 Mendacious (6)
19 Sliver (6)
20 Mendacious (6)

DOWN
1 Dissected (3)
2 Sound of horn or flute (4)
3 Swiss district (6)
4 Inhabitant of West - Asian (6)
5 Sugar canal (6)
6 Builder (7)
7 Catch a crab (7)
8 Neck (10)
9 Neck (10)
10 Neck (10)
11 Neck (10)
12 Neck (10)
13 Neck (10)
14 Neck (10)
15 Neck (10)
16 Neck (10)
17 Neck (10)
18 Neck (10)
19 Neck (10)
20 Neck (10)

UK HOLIDAYS

NORFOLK OFF SEASON BREAKS
GREAT VALUE
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

At the sign of the DRAGON

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

ALSO 200 VILLAS IN GROUND

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

TRADITIONAL FARMHOUSE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
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UNIQUELY OVERLOOKED

...the Opposi...
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LAKE DISTRICT

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ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

TOPS FOR CHOICE
At Tops we are...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

TOPS FOR EXCITEMENT

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

TOPS FOR VALUE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

WINDMILL HILL PLACE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

LAKE DISTRICT

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ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

COLONY TRADITIONAL ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS
Harvesting the spirit of fun and adventure...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

ASSEN CONY HORSE RIDING HOLIDAYS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

OAKHAM SCHOOL ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
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OVERSEAS TRAVEL

EUROVISTA WORLD TRAVEL
Many daily departure scheduled from Heathrow...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

SHORT HAUL

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

SKI FLY DRIVE EUROPE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

LONG HAUL

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

FLY NOW - PAY LATER

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

CRETE, CORFU, THE ALGARVE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
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Summer Schools

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

Sunspot Adventure holidays for beginners

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

TWELVE ISLANDS SUPERB GREEK HOLIDAYS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

LEARN IN THE SUN

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

FALCON SAILING

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

ITALIAN CITY BREAKS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

VENICE, ROME, FLORENCE, KININI AND AMALFI COAST

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

QUO VADIS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

AFRICA SPECIALISTS

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

CHEAP FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, 01-436 8225

MALAGA CANARIES: 01-441 1111

...the Opposi...
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...the Opposi...

ITALY: Milan, Rome, Venice

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

SPAIN: Barcelona, Madrid, Seville

...the Opposi...
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...the Opposi...

ASK AIRWAYS for Jo-bury, Midbury

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

WINTER SPORTS

...the Opposi...
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OVERLAND TRAVEL

LATIN AMERICA: Holiday Journeys...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

WINTER SPORTS

...the Opposi...
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...the Opposi...

More Personal appears on page 8

BEAT THE TOURIST TRAP

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

DOONESBURY

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

THE DOCTOR

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

IMPRESSIVE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...

SO I SEE

...the Opposi...
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...the Opposi...

ANY MORE

...the Opposi...
...the Opposi...
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HELLO

...the Opposi...
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